



## Drug Coverage Policy

Effective Date..... 10/1/2024  
Coverage Policy Number. .... IP0201  
Policy Title.....Actimmune

# Interferon – Actimmune

- Actimmune® (interferon gamma-1b subcutaneous injection – Horizon)

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

The following Coverage Policy applies to health benefit plans administered by Cigna Companies. Certain Cigna Companies and/or lines of business only provide utilization review services to clients and do not make coverage determinations. References to standard benefit plan language and coverage determinations do not apply to those clients. Coverage Policies are intended to provide guidance in interpreting certain standard benefit plans administered by Cigna Companies. Please note, the terms of a customer’s particular benefit plan document [Group Service Agreement, Evidence of Coverage, Certificate of Coverage, Summary Plan Description (SPD) or similar plan document] may differ significantly from the standard benefit plans upon which these Coverage Policies are based. For example, a customer’s benefit plan document may contain a specific exclusion related to a topic addressed in a Coverage Policy. In the event of a conflict, a customer’s benefit plan document always supersedes the information in the Coverage Policies. In the absence of a controlling federal or state coverage mandate, benefits are ultimately determined by the terms of the applicable benefit plan document. Coverage determinations in each specific instance require consideration of 1) the terms of the applicable benefit plan document in effect on the date of service; 2) any applicable laws/regulations; 3) any relevant collateral source materials including Coverage Policies and; 4) the specific facts of the particular situation. Each coverage request should be reviewed on its own merits. Medical directors are expected to exercise clinical judgment and have discretion in making individual coverage determinations. Coverage Policies relate exclusively to the administration of health benefit plans. Coverage Policies are not recommendations for treatment and should never be used as treatment guidelines. In certain markets, delegated vendor guidelines may be used to support medical necessity and other coverage determinations.

## Cigna Healthcare Coverage Policy

### OVERVIEW

Actimmune, an interferon gamma, is indicated for the following uses:<sup>1</sup>

- **Chronic granulomatous disease (CGD)**, to reduce the frequency and severity of serious infections.
- **Severe, malignant osteopetrosis (SMO)**, to delay time to disease progression.

In both disorders, the exact mechanism(s) by which Actimmune has a treatment effect has not been established. Changes in superoxide levels during Actimmune therapy do not predict efficacy and should not be used to assess patient response to therapy.

## Disease Overview

### *Chronic Granulomatous Disease (CGD)*

CGD, a primary immune deficiency disease, is caused by defects in the nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate (NADPH) oxidase (NOX) enzyme.<sup>2,3</sup> This enzyme is needed by phagocytes (a type of white blood cell) to kill certain types of bacteria and fungi. Patients with CGD are at risk of contracting recurrent and sometimes severe bacterial or fungal infections. Patients may need lifelong regimens of antibiotics and antifungals to prevent infections and use of Actimmune may also help reduce the number of severe infections. Variants in one of five different genes that encode components of the NADPH (*CYBA*, *CYBB*, *NCF1*, *NCF2*, or *NCF4*) cause CGD. Some patients with CGD do not have an identified pathogenic variant in any of these genes and the cause of the condition in these individuals is unknown.

The American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology and the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology have jointly accepted responsibility for establishing the practice parameter for the diagnosis and management of primary immunodeficiency.<sup>4</sup> The practice parameter (2015) recommends patients with CGD be given antibacterial and antifungal prophylaxis and Actimmune.

### *Severe, Malignant Osteopetrosis (SMO)*

SMO is an inherited disorder characterized by osteoclast defect and deficient phagocyte oxidative metabolism.<sup>1</sup> There is a reduction in osteoclastic bone reabsorption, which results in bone density overgrowth and poor structural integrity (i.e., bones are more brittle and susceptible to fracture).<sup>5,6</sup> In some cases, this is also accompanied by skeletal abnormalities.<sup>5</sup> The cause of SMO is unknown in some patients, however, pathogenic variants in one of the following genes have been found to be associated with osteopetrosis: *CA2*, *CLCN7*, *IKBLG*, *ITGB3*, *LRP5*, *OSTM1*, *PLEKHM1*, *SNX10*, *TCIRG1*, *TNFRSF11A*, *TNFSF11*. The Osteopetrosis Working Group developed expert consensus guidelines for the diagnosis and management of osteopetrosis (2017).<sup>7</sup> The guidelines recommend determination of diagnosis by classic radiographic (X-ray) features of osteopetrosis followed up by genetic testing to differentiate between the different forms of osteopetrosis with unique complications. The guidelines suggest the use of Actimmune to be considered experimental in non-infantile osteopetrosis with limited clinical experience. Furthermore, the guidelines acknowledge the FDA indication for SMO and advise that the indication pertains only to severe infantile osteopetrosis.

## Medical Necessity Criteria

**Actimmune is considered medically necessary when ONE of the following criteria are met:**

### FDA-Approved Indications

- 1. Chronic Granulomatous Disease.** Approve for 1 year if the patient meets both of the following criteria (A and B):
  - A)** Diagnosis has been established by a molecular genetic test identifying a gene-related pathogenic variant linked to chronic granulomatous disease; AND  
Note: Examples of gene-related pathogenic variants linked to chronic granulomatous disease include biallelic pathogenic variants in *CYBA*, *CYBB*, *NCF1*, *NCF2*, and *NCF4*.
  - B)** The medication is prescribed by or in consultation with an immunologist.
- 2. Malignant Osteopetrosis, Severe Infantile.** Approve for 1 year if the patient meets both of the following criteria (A and B):
  - A)** Diagnosis has been established by ONE of the following (i or ii):
    - i.** Patient has had radiographic (X-ray) imaging demonstrating skeletal features related to osteopetrosis; OR

- ii. Patient has had a molecular genetic test identifying a gene-related pathogenic variant linked to severe, infantile malignant osteopetrosis; AND

Note: Examples of genes linked to osteopetrosis include *CA2*, *CLCN7*, *IKBLG*, *ITGB3*, *LRP5*, *OSTM1*, *PLEKHM1*, *SNX10*, *TCIRG1*, *TNFRSF11A*, and *TNFSF11*.

- B) The medication is prescribed by or in consultation with an endocrinologist.

When coverage is available and medically necessary, the dosage, frequency, duration of therapy, and site of care should be reasonable, clinically appropriate, and supported by evidence-based literature and adjusted based upon severity, alternative available treatments, and previous response to therapy.

Receipt of sample product does not satisfy any criteria requirements for coverage.

## Conditions Not Covered

Any other use is considered experimental, investigational, or unproven (criteria will be updated as new published data are available).

## References

1. Actimmune® subcutaneous injection [prescribing information]. Lake Forest, IL: Horizon; May 2021.
2. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. Chronic granulomatous disease (CGD). Available at: [https://www.niaid.nih.gov/diseases-conditions/chronic-granulomatous-disease-cgd#:~:text=Chronic%20granulomatous%20disease%20\(CGD\)%20is,threatening%20bacteria%20and%20fungal%20infections](https://www.niaid.nih.gov/diseases-conditions/chronic-granulomatous-disease-cgd#:~:text=Chronic%20granulomatous%20disease%20(CGD)%20is,threatening%20bacteria%20and%20fungal%20infections). Last reviewed May 20, 2022. Accessed on May 29, 2024.
3. Genetics Home Reference. National Institutes of Health, U.S. National Library of Medicine. Available at <https://ghr.nlm.nih.gov/>. Accessed on May 29, 2024. Search terms: chronic granulomatous disease.
4. Bonilla F, Khan D, Ballas Z, et al. Practice parameter for the diagnosis and management of primary immunodeficiency. *The J Allergy Clin Immunol*. 2015;136(5):1186-1205.e78.
5. Charoenngam N, Nasr A, Shirvani A, Holick MF. Hereditary metabolic bone diseases: a review of pathogenesis, diagnosis, and management. *Genes*. 2022;13:1880.
6. Genetics Home Reference. National Institutes of Health, U.S. National Library of Medicine. Available at <https://ghr.nlm.nih.gov/>. Accessed on March 29, 2023. Search terms: osteopetrosis.
7. Wu C, Econs M, DiMeglio L, et al. Diagnosis and management of osteopetrosis: consensus guidelines from the osteopetrosis working group. *J Clin Endocrinol Metab*. 2017;102:3111-3123.

## Revision Details

Type of Revision	Summary of Changes	Date
Annual Revision	<p><b>Updated</b> coverage policy title from <i>Interferon Gamma-1b for Non-Oncology Uses</i> to <i>Interferon – Actimmune</i>.</p> <p><b>Removed</b> <i>Reauthorization Criteria</i>.</p>	10/1/2024

The policy effective date is in force until updated or retired.

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