

POCKET GUIDE FOR IMMUNIZERS

PNEUMOCOCCAL VACCINATION IN ADULTS

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) recommends pneumococcal vaccination for the following:

1. All adults 65 years of age and older
2. Adults who are at higher risk of invasive pneumococcal disease, including individuals with:

Non-immunocompromising conditions, such as:

- chronic cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) leak
- chronic neurologic conditions that may impair clearance of oral secretions
- cochlear implants (including adults who are to receive implants)
- chronic cardiac or pulmonary disease
- diabetes mellitus
- chronic kidney disease
- chronic liver disease (including hepatic cirrhosis due to any cause)
- asthma that required medical care in the preceding 12 months

Immunocompromising conditions, such as:

- sickle cell disease or other hemoglobinopathies
- congenital immunodeficiencies involving any part of the immune system, including B-lymphocyte (humoral) immunity, T-lymphocyte (cell) mediated immunity, complement system (properdin, or factor D deficiencies), or phagocytic functions
- asplenia (functional or anatomic)
- immunocompromising therapy including use of long-term corticosteroids, chemotherapy, radiation therapy, post-organ transplant therapy, and certain anti-rheumatic drugs
- HIV infection
- hematopoietic stem cell transplant (recipient)
- malignant neoplasms including leukemia and lymphoma
- nephrotic syndrome
- solid organ or islet transplant (candidate or recipient)

3. Adults who are less than 65 years of age in long-term care facilities
4. Immunocompetent adults who have conditions or situations putting them at increased risk of pneumococcal disease, including:
 - alcoholism
 - smoking
 - homelessness
 - illicit drug use

PNEUMOCOCCAL VACCINES

1. Conjugate pneumococcal vaccine
 - Prevnar®13 (PNEU-C-13)
2. Polysaccharide pneumococcal vaccine
 - Pneumovax®23 (PNEU-P-23)

For more information, visit the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) website at <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/naci-ccni/index-eng.php#rec>

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DOSAGE AND SCHEDULE

The dose of the pneumococcal vaccine for all age groups is 0.5 mL.

1. Immunocompetent adults 65 years of age and older with no risk factors

- Administer one dose of PNEU-P-23 **OR**
- Administer one dose of PNEU-C-13 followed 8 weeks later by one dose of PNEU-P-23 (if not previously immunized with PNEU-P-23 or immunized with PNEU-P-23 at least one year ago).

2. Immunocompetent adults less than 65 years of age in long-term care facilities

- Administer one dose of PNEU-P-23.

3. Adults 18 years of age and older with conditions increasing risk of IPD other than hematopoietic stem cell transplant [HSCT]

- Administer one dose of PNEU-C-13 followed 8 weeks later by one dose of PNEU-P-23 (if not previously immunized with PNEU-P-23). The PNEU-C-13 dose should be administered at least one year after any previous dose of PNEU-P-23.

4. Adults 18 years of age and older with hematopoietic stem cell transplant [HSCT]

- Administer three doses of PNEU-C-13 starting 3-9 months after transplant. These doses should be administered at least 4 weeks apart, followed by a dose of PNEU-P-23 12 to 18 months post-transplant (i.e. 6 to 12 months after the last dose of PNEU-C-13).

RE-IMMUNIZATION

- A single re-immunization of adults who have received a previous dose of PNEU-P-23 because of a medical condition that places them at highest risk of IPD is recommended, with one dose of PNEU-P-23 as long as 5 years have passed since the previous PNEU-P-23 dose.

CONTRAINDICATIONS AND PRECAUTIONS

Pneumococcal vaccines are contraindicated in any individual with a history of anaphylaxis to any component of the vaccines, including diphtheria toxoid.

ADVERSE REACTIONS

- Soreness or redness at the injection site.
- Occasional slight fever may occur.
- Very rarely, moderate to severe reactions may occur.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS AND COUNSELING POINTS

- PNEU-C-13 can be co-administered with other vaccines, but not with PNEU-P-23.
- PNEU-P-23 vaccine and HZ vaccine may be administered together.
- Pneumococcal vaccine may be given year-round.
- Pregnant women can be vaccinated with PNEU-P-23 or PNEU-C-13 vaccine, if indicated.
- Recommendations for pneumococcal vaccines in pregnancy are the same as for non-pregnant and non-breastfeeding adults. For more information, visit the Canadian Immunization Guide. (2013). Part 3: Vaccination of Specific Populations: Immunization in Pregnancy and Breastfeeding. Available at: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/cig-gci/p03-eng.php>

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