Preventing Pneumococcal Disease and Vaccination Recommendations

Why immunization is especially important during influenza season

Pneumococcal disease is an infection that can cause serious illness and death throughout the year. Since pneumococcal infection is a common complication of influenza, it is critical that at-risk individuals are protected against both diseases.

Pneumococcal infection causes bacteremia (sepsis), meningitis, pneumonia, and other less serious illnesses such as otitis media (infection of the ear) and sinusitis. Infants and adults age 65 years and older, as well as individuals with chronic health conditions, are more likely than others to be seriously affected by pneumococcal disease. About 90 percent of severe cases of pneumococcal disease in the United States occur in individuals age 18 years and older.¹

A visit to a healthcare professional for an influenza vaccination provides adults with a good opportunity to ask about pneumococcal vaccination.

Pneumococcal Vaccination:
• Protects against serious infections.
• Can be given any time of year.
• Can be given during the same visit as influenza vaccine (note: children younger than 6 months cannot get influenza vaccine).
• Reduces the chances of becoming infected with pneumococcal bacteria and is associated with improved survival, reduced chances of respiratory failure or other complications, and shorter in-patient stays for adults hospitalized with community-acquired pneumonia caused by pneumococcal disease.²
• One dose is fully covered for adults on Medicare Part B (no co-pay, no deductible).

Pneumococcal Vaccine Types:
• There are two types of pneumococcal vaccines—pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV13) and pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPSV23).
• PPSV23 is manufactured by Merck & Co., Inc.
• PCV13 is manufactured by Pfizer Inc.

Pneumococcal Vaccine Recommendations At-a-Glance
• PCV13 is recommended for all infants as part of the routine childhood vaccination series. It is also recommended for all adults age 65 years and older (new recommendation effective September 18, 2014)³ and for immunocompromised adults age 19 years and older (in addition to PPSV23).
• PPSV23 is recommended for children age 2 years and older with certain chronic conditions. It is also recommended for all adults age 65 and older and adults age 19-64 years who smoke or have certain chronic health conditions.
### Pneumococcal Vaccine Recommendations for Children and Adults*

#### Children

**PCV13**
- **All infants** should receive the pneumococcal conjugate vaccination series

**PPSV23**
- **Children and adolescents age 2 years and older** also need a polysaccharide vaccine if they have any of the following conditions or factors:
  - Lung, heart, liver, or kidney disease; asthma; diabetes; or sickle cell disease
  - Conditions that weaken the immune system, such as HIV/AIDS, cancer, damaged or absent spleen
  - Cochlear implants or cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) leaks
  - Reside in chronic-care or long-term care facilities

#### Adults

**PCV13 and PPSV23**
- **Everyone age 65 years and older** (one dose of each)
- **Adults age 19-64 years with** any of the following conditions:
  - Conditions that weaken the immune system, such as **chronic kidney disease**, HIV/AIDS, lymphoma, leukemia, Hodgkin’s disease, damaged/absent spleen; on steroids or other immunosuppressive therapy
  - Cochlear implants or cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) leaks

**PPSV23**
- **Adults age 19-64 years with** any of the following conditions: asthma; diabetes; lung, heart, or liver disease; or alcoholism
- **Adults age 19-64 years who smoke**
- **Adults age 19-64 years who reside in chronic-care or long-term care facilities**

*Information about sequencing and intervals for PCV13 and PPSV23 in children and adults is available at: [http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/vacc-specific/pneumo.html](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/vacc-specific/pneumo.html). A healthcare professional will be able to provide more information based on specific risk factors.

**Vaccine Safety:**
- Either vaccine may cause some local reaction or soreness around the site of the injection; however, these reactions are usually minor and subside within a few days.
- In children, PCV may cause mild fever, fussiness, and decreased appetite.

**References**

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