

POCKET GUIDE FOR IMMUNIZERS

PNEUMOCOCCAL VACCINATION IN ADULTS

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) recommends pneumococcal vaccination for prevention of invasive pneumococcal disease (IPD) and community-acquired pneumonia (CAP) in the following people:

1. All adults 65 years of age and older

2. Adults 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

3. Adults with 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 biologic agents used for treatment of inflammatory conditions (e.g. such as inflammatory bowel disease or types of arthritis).
- HIV infection
- hematopoietic stem cell transplant (HSCT) (recipient)
- malignant neoplasms including leukemia and lymphoma
- nephrotic syndrome
- solid organ or islet transplant (candidate or recipient)

4. Adults who are less than 65 years of age in long-term care facilities

5. 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 <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/immunization/national-advisory-committee-on-immunization-naci.html>

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PNEUMOCOCCAL VACCINATION IN ADULTS

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

- NACI recommends the administration of one dose of PNEU-P-23.*
- For additional protection against CAP and IPD, NACI recommends the administration of PNEU-C-13 can be considered for:
 - Adults not previously immunized against pneumococcal disease: PNEU-C-13 should be provided first, followed by PNEU-P-23 at least 8 weeks later.
 - Adults previously immunized against pneumococcal disease: PNEU-C-13 should be administered at least one year after any previous dose of PNEU-P-23.*

*PNEU-P-23 should be administered at least 5 years after any previous PNEU-P-23 dose.

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

- Administer one dose of PNEU-P-23.

3. Adults with an immunocompromising condition (except 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. Adult HSCT recipients

- 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 second dose of PNEU-P-23 is recommended for adults of any age with an immunocompromising condition (except HSCT) that places them at highest risk of IPD. If a booster dose of PNEU-P-23 is recommended, it should be administered at least 5 years after the previous dose of PNEU-P-23 vaccine. For adult HSCT recipients, one booster dose with PNEU-P-23, is recommended as early as 1 year.

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 (2018), Part 3: Vaccination of Specific Populations: Immunization in Pregnancy and Breastfeeding. Available at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/healthy-living/canadian-immunization-guide-part-3-vaccination-specific-populations/page-4-immunization-pregnancy-breastfeeding.html>