Pneumococcal Vaccines (PCV13 and PPSV23)

Who should get these vaccines?

- People 19 years and older who have diseases that lower their body's resistance to infection (immunocompromised)
- People with certain health conditions, such as chronic lung disease or diabetes
- People 65 years and older
- People who are taking medications that lower the body's resistance to infection
- People who are taking certain medications, such as certain anti-epilepsy or anti-psychiatric drugs

What diseases do these vaccines protect against?

Pneumococcal Vaccines protect against a wide range of diseases, including pneumonia, meningitis, and bacteremia.

How does pneumococcal disease spread?

Pneumococcal disease can spread from person to person by direct contact or through the air. The bacteria can also be carried in the nose and throat of a person who is not sick.

Who is at risk for pneumococcal disease?

Almost anyone can get pneumococcal disease, but certain groups are more likely to get sick:

- Adults 19 years and older who smoke cigarettes
- Adults 19 years and older who have a disease or condition, or are taking medications that could lower the body's resistance to infection
- Adults 19 years and older who are taking medications that lower the body's resistance to infection
- Adults 19 years and older who have certain health conditions, such as chronic lung disease or diabetes
- Adults 65 years and older
- Adults with certain medical conditions, such as chronic lung disease, diabetes, or heart disease
- Adults who live or work with children younger than 5 years of age
- Adults who are in close contact with large numbers of people
- Adults who live or work in community locations (such as schools/universities, workplaces, day care centers, military installations, or nursing homes)

How common is pneumococcal disease?

Each year in the United States, pneumococcal disease kills thousands of adults, including 18,000 adults 65 years or older.

What diseases do these vaccines protect against?

There are two vaccines that protect against pneumococcal disease, PCV13 and PPSV23.

PCV13 (pneumococcal conjugate vaccine) protects against 13 of the approximately 90 types of pneumococcal bacteria that can cause pneumococcal disease, including pneumonia, meningitis, and bacteremia.

PPSV23 (pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine) protects against 23 types of pneumococcal bacteria, including pneumonia.

Each type of vaccine protects against a different subset of pneumococcal bacteria.

What should I know before getting these vaccines?

- PCV13:
  - It is approved for use in people 19 years and older who have diseases that lower their body's resistance to infection.
  - It is not approved for people who are taking medications that lower the body's resistance to infection.
  - It is not approved for people who have ever had a severe allergic reaction to PCV13.

- PPSV23:
  - It is approved for use in people 19 years and older who have diseases that lower their body's resistance to infection.
  - It is not approved for people who are taking medications that lower the body's resistance to infection.
  - It is not approved for people who have ever had a severe allergic reaction to PPSV23.

What could happen if I don't get these vaccines?

- Pneumococcal meningitis kills about 1 out of 20 people who get it.
- Pneumococcal pneumonia kills about 1 out of 20 people who get it.
- Pneumococcal pneumonia can cause serious complications, including deafness, brain damage, or loss of arms or legs. These illnesses can lead to disabilities like hearing loss, vision loss, or limb loss.
- Pneumococcal meningitis can cause serious complications, including deafness, brain damage, or loss of arms or legs. These illnesses can lead to disabilities like hearing loss, vision loss, or limb loss.

Do I need more than one dose?

- PCV13:
  - Adults should get one, two, or three doses of this vaccine, depending on their age, health condition, and timing of the first dose.
  - Adults who are taking medications that lower the body's resistance to infection may need more than one dose.

- PPSV23:
  - Adults should get one, two, or three doses of this vaccine, depending on their age, health condition, and timing of the first dose.
  - Adults who are taking medications that lower the body's resistance to infection may need more than one dose.

Where can I get these vaccines?

- Private doctor's office
- Pharmacy
- Community locations (such as schools/universities, workplaces, day care centers, military installations, or nursing homes)

How much do the vaccines cost?

The cost of pneumococcal vaccines varies depending on the location and the type of vaccine. Many people pay for the vaccines through their insurance, and some insurance companies cover the cost of both vaccines.

How long do the vaccines last?

The duration of protection provided by pneumococcal vaccines varies depending on the type of vaccine. PCV13 provides long-term protection, while PPSV23 provides short-term protection.

Can I get the vaccines if I have a severe allergy to a vaccine component?

- PCV13:
  - People who have ever had a severe allergic reaction to PCV13 should not get the vaccine.

- PPSV23:
  - People who have ever had a severe allergic reaction to PPSV23 should not get the vaccine.

Is the vaccine safe?

Pneumococcal vaccines are very safe. They have been thoroughly tested for safety and effectiveness before being licensed by the FDA and recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). The risk of a vaccine causing serious reaction, or death, is extremely small.

What should I expect when getting vaccinated?

After getting vaccinated, you may experience mild to moderate local reactions, such as pain, redness, and swelling at the injection site. You may also experience mild to moderate systemic reactions, such as fever, headache, and muscle aches.

Most people do not experience any reactions after getting vaccinated.

Who should not get these vaccines?

- People who are allergic to any vaccine component, including thimerosal, a preservative used in some vaccines
- People who are allergic to eggs, which are used as an adjuvant in the PCV13 vaccine
- People who have ever had a very dangerous allergic reaction to a dose of the PCV13 vaccine, or who have ever had a severe allergic reaction to a vaccine component
- People who have ever had a life-threatening allergic reaction to a dose of the PPSV23 vaccine, or who have ever had a severe allergic reaction to a vaccine component

How do I keep my patients informed about pneumococcal vaccines?

- Provide patients with clear, easy-to-understand information about pneumococcal vaccines, including their benefits and risks.
- Encourage patients to discuss the vaccine with their healthcare provider.
- Provide patients with a copy of the Fact Sheet about Pneumococcal Vaccines for Older Adults.