

Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Vaccination Pocket Guide

Indications

Vaccination with pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPSV) is recommended for **all** people who meet any of the criteria below:

- Previously unvaccinated adults age 65 yrs and older
- Age 2 to 64 yrs with any of the following conditions:
 - a. cigarette smokers age 19 yrs and older
 - b. functional or anatomic asplenia (e.g., sickle cell disease, splenectomy)
 - c. immunocompromising conditions (e.g., HIV infection, leukemia, congenital immunodeficiency, Hodgkin's disease, lymphoma, multiple myeloma, generalized malignancy) or on immunosuppressive therapy
 - d. organ or bone marrow transplantation
 - e. chronic renal failure or nephrotic syndrome
 - f. chronic cardiovascular disease (e.g., congestive heart failure, cardiomyopathies)
 - g. chronic pulmonary disease (including asthma in people age 19 yrs and older)
 - h. cerebrospinal fluid leak
 - i. diabetes mellitus
 - j. alcoholism or chronic liver disease (cirrhosis)
 - k. candidate for or recipient of cochlear implant

Who needs a second dose of PPSV?

A second PPSV is indicated for people who are

- Age 65 yrs and older and previously vaccinated with PPSV before age 65 yrs if 5 yrs (or more) have elapsed since first dose
- At highest risk of serious pneumococcal disease or likely to have a rapid decline in pneumococcal antibody levels (categories b–e above)

Intervals Between Doses

- Children 2 yrs and older who previously received pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV), and who need a first dose of PPSV, should wait at least 8 wks following the last PCV dose before receiving PPSV.
- People age 2 yrs and older in need of a second PPSV should wait at least 5 yrs following their first PPSV dose.

Contraindications and Precautions

- Do not give PPSV to patients who have a history of a serious reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) after a previous dose of PPSV or to a PPSV component.
- Minor illnesses with or without fever do not contraindicate use of PPSV vaccine.

Vaccine Dosing and Administration

Administer 0.5 mL PPSV either intramuscularly (22–25g; needle length according to the patient's age/body mass [1–1½"]), or subcutaneously (23–25g, 5/8" needle).

Side Effects

Most common side effects from PPSV are soreness and redness at the injection site, lasting 1–2 days.

Talking Points with Patients

- *Streptococcus pneumoniae* bacteria (i.e., pneumococci) are usually found in the upper respiratory tract of most people.
- Pneumococcal disease most often occurs in older people as well as in people with a predisposing condition (e.g., pulmonary disease, asplenia).
- Pneumococcal disease most commonly presents as a serious infection in the lungs (pneumonia), blood (bacteremia), or brain (meningitis). The annual U.S. case estimate for invasive pneumococcal disease (bacteremia and/or meningitis) is 40,000.
- PPSV is 60–70% effective in preventing serious pneumococcal disease; it does not provide substantial protection against all types of pneumonia (viral and bacterial). It is not a “pneumonia” vaccine.
- PPSV is commonly given once in a lifetime; however, some people (see other side) need 2 doses.
- PPSV can be given at the same time as all other vaccines, including influenza.
- Patients recommended to receive PPSV who can't remember ever receiving it should be vaccinated now.
- Medicare covers the cost of PPSV and its administration for all Medicare beneficiaries.

PPSV vaccine may be given at the same visit as influenza vaccine or at any time during the year to all patients for whom it is recommended.