**CDC Highlights Key Recommendations for Pneumococcal Vaccination**

In September 2014, CDC released major recommendation changes for the use of pneumococcal vaccination among adults. Adults aged 65 or older are now recommended to get the pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV13, Prevnar-13®) and then be vaccinated with the pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPSV23, Pneumovax®23) 1 year later. Both PCV13 and PPSV23 provide protection against invasive forms of pneumococcal infection like meningitis and bacteremia. PCV13 also provides protection against pneumonia.

In June 2014, the results of a large randomized placebo-controlled trial evaluating efficacy of PCV13 against community-acquired pneumonia among adults 65 years or older (CAPiTA trial) became available.[[1]](#footnote-1) The results of this trial among approximately 85,000 adults 65 years or older demonstrated 45% efficacy of PCV13 against vaccine-type community-acquired pneumococcal pneumonia and 75% efficacy against vaccine-type invasive pneumococcal disease. Thus, PCV13 helps to fill the gap in protection against non-invasive pneumococcal pneumonia.

As part of CDC’s recommendations, adults 65 years of age or older who have not previously received any pneumococcal vaccines or whose previous vaccination history is unknown should receive a dose of PCV13 first, followed 1 year later by a dose of PPSV23. Adults 65 years of age or older who have previously received PPSV23 should receive PCV13 at least 1 year since their most recent dose of PPSV23.

In addition to the recommendation for pneumococcal vaccination of adults 65 years or older, it’s important to remember that pneumococcal vaccines are also recommended for adults 19 years or older with certain health conditions and lifestyles.[[2]](#footnote-2) [[3]](#footnote-3)

“Thousands of older adults die and many more are hospitalized from pneumococcal disease every year, but many adults aren’t aware that there are vaccines that can prevent it,” said Dr. Anne Schuchat, principal deputy director for CDC. “A lot of adults get their flu shot this time of year, which is a great time to review with the patient their immunization status and recommend pneumococcal and other vaccines to those that need them.”

There are also other vaccines recommended for adults besides the pneumococcal and flu vaccines, so it’s important to make sure adults are up-to-date on the all the vaccines recommended for them based on their age, lifestyle, occupation, health condition, travel, or other factors.

Most private health insurance covers pneumococcal vaccines. Patients should check with their insurance provider for details on whether there is any cost to them and for a list of in-network vaccine providers. Medicare Part B covers the cost of both pneumococcal vaccines (PCV13 and PPSV23) when administered at least 1 year apart.

*Summary of pneumococcal vaccine recommendations for adults*

PCV13 is recommended for:

* All adults 65 years or older
* Adults 19 years or older with certain [health conditions](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/imz/adult-conditions.html) such as sickle cell disease or asplenia
* Adults 19 years or older who are immunocompromised, including those with HIV infection

PPSV23 is recommended for:

* All adults 65 years or older
* Adults 19 years or older with [health conditions](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/imz/adult-conditions.html) such as heart disease, lung disease (including asthma), sickle cell disease, diabetes, alcoholism, and cirrhosis
* Adults 19 years or older who are immunocompromised, including those with HIV infection
* Adults who smoke cigarettes

To learn more about the pneumococcal recommendation for adults 65 years old or older, go to <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6337a4.htm> or download this resource: [Pneumococcal Vaccine Timing for Adults  [4 pages]](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/pneumo/downloads/adult-vax-clinician-aid.pdf).

To see a complete list of pneumococcal vaccination recommendations, go to <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/vacc-specific/pneumo.html>.

**For more information on adult vaccine recommendations, go to CDC’s** [**Adult Immunization Schedules**](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/adult.html) **page or download the** [**CDC Vaccine Schedules**](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/schedule-app.html) **app.**

1. Community Acquired Pneumonia Immunization Trial in Adults (CAPITA) Abstract # 0541. 2014. at https://pneumonia.org.au/public/journals/22/PublicFolder/ABSTRACTBOOKMASTERforwebupdated20-3-14.pdf. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Pneumococcal ACIP Vaccine Recommendations at http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/vacc-specific/pneumo.html. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Pneumococcal Vaccination at http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/pneumo/default.htm [↑](#footnote-ref-3)