

	Clinical Protocol: Pneumococcal Vaccination Pt II	
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PROTOCOL OVERVIEW

Pneumovax is a 23-valent polysaccharide vaccine (PPVSV) that is currently recommended for use in adults. This Clinical Protocol advises on indications and guidelines for Pneumococcal vaccine.

INDICATIONS

Who needs to be vaccinated?

1. All adults 65 years of age and older.
2. Anyone 2 through 64 years of age who has a disease that lowers the body's resistance to infection, such as Hodgkin's disease, lymphoma, leukemia, kidney failure, multiple myeloma, nephritic syndrome, HIV infection or AIDS, damaged or absent spleen, organ transplant, etc.
3. Anyone 2 through 64 years of age who has a long-term health problem such as heart disease, lung disease, sickle cell disease, diabetes, alcoholism, cirrhosis, leaks of cerebrospinal fluid or cochlear implant.
4. Anyone 2 through 64 years of age who is taking an immune-suppressant treatment regimen, such as long-term steroids, many oncology agents, or radiation therapy.
5. Anyone age 19 through 64 years of age who is a smoker or has asthma, sickle cell disease or other hemoglobinopathies, anatomic or functional asplenia, congenital or acquired immunodeficiency including HIV infection, chronic renal failure or nephrotic syndrome, leukemia or lymphoma, Hodgkin disease, malignancies, organ transplant or multiple myeloma. Also for those with alcoholism, chronic heart disease or liver disease, chronic lung disease or diabetes.
6. Residents of nursing homes or long-term care facilities.

PPSV may be less effective for patients with lower resistance to infection. These patients should still be vaccinated, as they are more likely to have serious complications if they get pneumococcal disease.

Children who often get ear infections, sinus infections, or other upper respiratory diseases, but who are otherwise healthy, do not need to get PPSV because it may not be effective against those conditions.

Pneumococcal disease is caused by infection with bacteria streptococcus pneumonia (pneumococcus). This bacteria can cause a number of types of disease, including pneumonia, bacteremia, meningitis and otitis media. The symptoms of pneumococcal pneumonia include fever, cough, shortness of breath, and chest pain. Pneumococcal meningitis symptoms include stiff neck, fever, confusion and disorientation or other mental status changes, and photophobia.

CITATIONS

“Pneumococcal Vaccination: Summary of Who and When to Vaccinate”, Dept. of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 08/07/2020

“Interactive Q&A, Answers from a panel of experts for commonly asked questions about pneumococcal disease in adults”, National Foundation for Infectious Diseases, August 2011

“Vaccines and Immunizations, Vaccines and Preventable Diseases: Pneumococcal Vaccination”, Dept. of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, April 2011

“Pneumococcal Disease In-Short”, Dept. of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, April 2011