

Updated Pneumococcal Vaccine Guidelines (April 2022)

Guidelines

October 2021 – ACIP changed guidelines, adding PCV20 and PCV15 (CDC handout [here](#)).

Background

Two types of pneumococcal vaccines (prevent illness from *Streptococcus pneumoniae* bacteria)

- Pneumococcal conjugate vaccines (PCV13, PCV15, and PCV20)
- Pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPSV23)

Look [here](#) for more information about individual vaccines and [here](#) for information on storage and handling.

Adults 19-64, with chronic medical conditions (see appendix A)

For those who have not previously received any pneumococcal vaccine as an adult:

- Give 1 dose of PCV20 (not PPSV23)

For those who have already received PPSV23:

- May give 1 dose of PCV20 or PCV15, at least one year after the most recent PPSV23 vaccination
- An additional dose of PPSV23 is not recommended since they already received it

In patients 19-64 with immunocompromise, cochlear implant, or cerebrospinal fluid leak

- Give 1 dose of PCV15, followed by a dose of PPSV23 at least one year later
- Give second dose of PPSV23 at least 5 years later while patient is <65
- When the patient turns 65, give third dose of PPSV23 (at least 5 years after second PPSV23)

All adults 65 and older

For adults 65 years or older who have not previously received pneumococcal vaccine, CDC recommends:

- Give 1 dose of PCV20, or
- Give 1 dose of PCV15, followed by a dose of PPSV23 at least one year later in adults with an immunocompromising condition, cochlear implant, or cerebrospinal fluid leak

For adults 65 years or older who have only received PCV13, CDC recommends you:

- Give 1 dose of PPSV23 at least 1 year after PCV13; or
- Give 1 dose of PCV20 if PPSV23 is not available

For adults 65 years or older who have only received PPSV23, CDC recommends you:

- May give 1 dose of PCV20 or PCV15
 - o The PCV20 or PCV15 dose should be administered at least one year after the most recent PPSV23 vaccination
 - o Regardless of if PCV20 or PCV15 is given, an additional dose of PPSV23 is not recommended since they already received it

Other Helpful Info

- Never co-administer a pneumococcal conjugate (PCV13, PCV15, PCV20) and PPSV23 at the same visit
- You can co-administer pneumococcal vaccines with a flu shot if you use a different injection site
- Do not give pneumococcal conjugate vaccines to someone allergic to Td
- No more than 3 doses of PPSV23 should be given in a lifetime
- Medicare will only cover 2 pneumococcal vaccines total in a lifetime, and they must be at least 1 year apart. If someone had Medicare <65 (ex. Disabled), had a pneumovax <65 for a health condition, then gets the PCV15 at 65, their third pneumovax will not be covered

Appendix A (Medical conditions that are indications for Pneumococcal Vaccine)

- Alcoholism
- Chronic heart/liver/lung disease
- Cigarette smoking
- Cochlear implant
- Congenital or acquired asplenia
- Chronic renal failure
- Congenital/acquired immunodeficiencies
- CSF leak
- Diabetes mellitus
- Generalized malignancy
- HIV infection
- Hodgkin disease
- Iatrogenic immunosuppression
- Leukemia
- Lymphoma
- Multiple myeloma
- Nephrotic syndrome
- Sickle cell disease or other hemoglobinopathies
- Solid organ transplant

References

1. Pneumococcal Vaccination | CDC. Published February 7, 2022. Accessed March 31, 2022.
<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/pneumo/index.html>
2. Pneumococcal Vaccination: Who and When to Vaccinate | CDC. Published March 22, 2022. Accessed April 6, 2022.
<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/pneumo/hcp/who-when-to-vaccinate.html>
3. Pneumococcal Vaccine Recommendations | CDC. Published February 17, 2022. Accessed March 31, 2022.
<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/pneumo/hcp/recommendations.html>

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