

Publicly Funded Vaccines & Eligibility Criteria for High-Risk Persons

Schedule 4: High-Risk Persons – Publicly Funded Vaccines

Vaccine	Eligible Group
Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine	High-risk children under 5 years of age
Pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine	Adults 65 years or older, other persons ≥ 2 years old with chronic heart or lung disease and others at high-risk
Meningococcal C conjugate vaccine	High-risk persons of all ages
Varicella zoster vaccine	Susceptible high-risk persons of all ages
Hepatitis B vaccine	High-risk persons
Hepatitis A vaccine	Specified high-risk persons

Eligibility Criteria

Pneumococcal Vaccine High-Risk Criteria

A. Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine and/or Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Vaccine (depending on age):

1. Pneumococcal *conjugate* vaccine: All children *under 5 years of age* with the medical conditions listed below.
2. Pneumococcal *polysaccharide* vaccine: All persons *2 years of age and older* with the medical conditions listed below.

Medical Conditions:

- Chronic respiratory disease (excluding asthma, except those treated with high-dose corticosteroid therapy)
- Chronic cardiac disease
- Cirrhosis or alcoholism
- Chronic renal disease or nephrotic syndrome
- Diabetes mellitus
- Asplenia, splenic dysfunction, sickle-cell disease and other sickle cell haemoglobinopathies
- Chronic cerebrospinal fluid leak
- Primary immune deficiency
- HIV infection and other conditions associated with immunosuppression (malignancies, long-term systemic corticosteroids and other immunosuppressive therapy)
- Solid organ transplant recipients
- Cochlear implant recipients (pre/post implant)

For high-risk children 24-59 months of age, the conjugate vaccine should be given first followed by the pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine eight weeks later (minimum acceptable time interval is four weeks). See the *National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI)* guidelines for the immunization of high-risk children with the pneumococcal vaccines.

B. Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Vaccine

1. All residents of nursing homes, homes for the aged and chronic care facilities or wards.
2. All persons 65 years of age and older regardless of medical condition.

Meningococcal C-Conjugate Vaccine High-Risk Criteria

1. All individuals with functional or anatomic asplenia.
2. All individuals with complement, properdin or factor D deficiency.
3. HIV-positive individuals.

Varicella Vaccine High-Risk Criteria

1. Children and adolescents given chronic salicylic acid therapy (consider stopping treatment for six weeks after vaccination, see product monograph).
2. All individuals with cystic fibrosis.
3. Immunocompromised individuals:
 - a) There is no additional or undue risk in immunizing the following individuals:
 - Persons with nephrotic syndrome or those undergoing dialysis who are not taking immunosuppressive medications
 - Persons taking low dose steroid therapy, e.g., less than 2 mg prednisone/kg daily and to a maximum of 20 mg/day for more than two weeks
 - Persons taking inhaled or topical steroids.
 - b) An infectious disease expert should be consulted before immunization of people with congenital transient hypogammaglobulinemia, HIV-infected individuals, and solid organ transplant recipients (vaccine should be given a minimum of four to six weeks before transplantation).
 - c) For special considerations/restrictions regarding the number of required doses and contraindications for other high-risk immunocompromised individuals see the *Canadian Immunization Guide*.

Hepatitis B Vaccine High-Risk Criteria

1. Infants born to carrier mothers.
2. Household and sexual contacts of chronic carriers and acute cases.
3. Persons on renal dialysis and those with diseases requiring frequent receipt of blood products (e.g., haemophilia).
4. Individuals awaiting liver transplants.
5. Intravenous drug users.
6. Men who have sex with men and heterosexuals with multiple sex partners.
7. Those having needle stick injuries in a non-health care setting.
8. Children < 7 years old whose families have immigrated from countries of high prevalence for hepatitis B, and who may be exposed to hepatitis B carriers through their extended families.
9. Persons with chronic liver disease, including hepatitis C.

Hepatitis A Vaccine High-Risk Criteria

1. Persons with chronic liver disease (including hepatitis C).
2. Intravenous drug users.
3. Men who have sex with men.

For more information, and to report vaccine related adverse events, please call your local public health unit.

For more detailed information about vaccines, please consult the manufacturers' product monographs, the current *Canadian Immunization Guide*, or the *National Advisory Committee on Immunization* website at:

<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/naci-ccni/index.html>