



Ministry Ministère
of de
Health la Santé

Ontario

Pneumococcal High-Risk Immunization Program
Information for Physicians and other Health Care Providers
September 2006

Eligibility criteria for the pneumococcal vaccines provided through the "high risk" program:

The pneumococcal vaccines are available, and can be given, at any time throughout the year to high-risk persons.

Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine:

All children under 5 years of age with the following high-risk medical conditions are eligible to receive the pneumococcal conjugate vaccine free of charge.

Note: The vaccine is also available, on a routine basis, for all children under 2 years of age, free of charge.

High Risk medical conditions that increase the risk of Invasive Pneumococcal Disease:

- 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 (the vaccine can be given simultaneously with the Hib conjugate or meningococcal vaccine, but at a separate anatomic site)
- 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 or post implant).

Note: The pneumococcal conjugate vaccine can be given throughout the year starting at 2 months of age. (The influenza vaccine is not recommended for use in infants younger than 6 months of age).

After the age of 6 months, the pneumococcal conjugate vaccine and the influenza vaccine can be administered at the same time, but at a different site.

The pneumococcal conjugate vaccine may also be administered at the same time (but at a different site) as the other routine childhood vaccines.

Note: High-risk children 24 to 59 months of age, who have received the pneumococcal conjugate vaccine, may receive the pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine as a booster dose and to increase the serotype coverage. The polysaccharide vaccine should ideally be given no earlier than 8 weeks after the conjugate vaccine (minimum acceptable time interval is 4 weeks).

NACI (National Advisory Committee on Immunization)
Recommendations for the Immunization of High-Risk Children < 5 years of age

| Age | Previous doses | Recommendations |
|-----------|-------------------|---|
| ≤ 23 mos | None | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PCV7 as recommended for unvaccinated children* |
| 24-59 mos | 4 doses of PCV7 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One dose of PPV23 at 24 months of age (8 weeks after last dose of PCV7) • One dose of PPV23, 3 to 5 years after the first dose of PPV23 |
| 24-59 mos | 1-3 doses of PCV7 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One dose of PCV7 • One dose of PPV23, 8 weeks after the last dose of PCV7 • One dose of PPV23, 3 to 5 years after the first dose of PPV23 |
| 24-59 mos | 1 dose of PPV23 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two doses of PCV7, 6-8 weeks apart, and at least 6-8 weeks after last dose of PPV23 • One dose of PPV23, 3 to 5 years after the first dose of PPV23 |
| 24-59 mos | None | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two doses of PCV7, 6-8 weeks apart • One dose of PPV23, 6-8 weeks after the last dose of PCV7 • One dose of PPV23, 3 to 5 years after the first dose of PPV23 |

*See Prevnar™ product monograph or the Publicly Funded Immunization Schedules for Ontario 2005 for vaccination schedule

†Adapted from National Advisory Committee on Immunization. Statement on recommended use of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine. CDR 15 January 2002; Vol 28.

PCV7 = pneumococcal conjugate 7-valent vaccine

PPV23 = pneumococcal polysaccharide 23 valent vaccine

Pneumococcal Polysaccharide vaccine:

- All residents of nursing homes, homes for the aged and chronic care facilities or wards.
- High-risk persons 2 to 64 years of age: All persons 2 years of age and older with the high risk medical conditions are eligible to receive the pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine.
- All persons 65 years of age and older regardless of medical condition.

Reimmunization with the Pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine:

In general, for immunocompetent persons, pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine is given only once. However, NACI recommends that persons with the following conditions receive a one-time re-immunization:

- Functional or anatomic asplenia or sickle cell disease
- Hepatic cirrhosis
- Chronic renal failure or nephrotic syndrome
- HIV infection
- Immunosuppression related to disease or therapy

For these individuals, a single re-immunization is recommended once after 5 years in those aged over 10 years of age and after 3 years in those 10 years of age or younger.

For additional information, please consult the Canadian Immunization Guide, 2002, and the product monographs.