

# Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Vaccination Pocket Guide

## Indications

Vaccination with pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPSV) is recommended for **all** people who meet any of the criteria below:

- Previously unvaccinated adults age 65 yrs and older
- Age 2 through 64 yrs with any of the following conditions:
  - a. cigarette smokers age 19 yrs and older
  - b. functional or anatomic asplenia (e.g., sickle cell disease, splenectomy)
  - c. immunocompromising conditions (e.g., HIV infection, leukemia, congenital immunodeficiency, Hodgkin's disease, lymphoma, multiple myeloma, generalized malignancy) or on immunosuppressive therapy
  - d. organ or bone marrow transplantation
  - e. chronic renal failure or nephrotic syndrome
  - f. chronic cardiovascular disease (e.g., congestive heart failure, cardiomyopathies)
  - g. chronic pulmonary disease (including asthma in people age 19 yrs and older)
  - h. cerebrospinal fluid leak
  - i. diabetes mellitus
  - j. alcoholism or chronic liver disease (cirrhosis)
  - k. candidate for or recipient of cochlear implant

## Who Needs a Second Dose of PPSV?

A second PPSV is indicated for people who are

- Age 65 yrs and older and previously vaccinated with PPSV before age 65 yrs if 5 yrs (or more) have elapsed since first dose
- Children and adults through age 64 years who are at highest risk of serious pneumococcal disease or likely to have a rapid decline in pneumococcal antibody levels (categories b–e above)

## Intervals Between Doses

- Children 2 yrs and older who previously received pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV), and who need a first dose of PPSV, should wait at least 8 wks following the last PCV dose before receiving PPSV.
- People age 2 yrs and older in need of a second PPSV should wait at least 5 yrs following their first PPSV dose.

## Contraindications and Precautions

- Do not give PPSV to patients who have a history of a serious reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) after a previous dose of PPSV or to a PPSV component.
- Minor illnesses with or without fever do not contraindicate use of PPSV vaccine.

## Vaccine Dosing and Administration

Administer 0.5 mL PPSV either intramuscularly (22–25g; needle length according to the patient's age/body mass [1–1½"]), or subcutaneously (23–25g, 5/8" needle).

## Side Effects

Most common side effects from PPSV are soreness and redness at the injection site, lasting 1–2 days.

## Talking Points with Patients

- *Streptococcus pneumoniae* bacteria (i.e., pneumococci) are usually found in the upper respiratory tract of most people.
- Pneumococcal disease most often occurs in older people as well as in people with a predisposing condition (e.g., pulmonary disease, asplenia).
- Pneumococcal disease most commonly presents as a serious infection in the lungs (pneumonia), blood (bacteremia), or brain (meningitis). The annual U.S. case estimate for invasive pneumococcal disease (bacteremia and/or meningitis) is 40,000.
- PPSV is 60–70% effective in preventing serious pneumococcal disease; it does not provide substantial protection against all types of pneumonia (viral and bacterial). It is not a “pneumonia” vaccine.
- PPSV is commonly given once in a lifetime; however, some people (see other side) need 2 doses.
- PPSV can be given at the same time as all other vaccines, such as influenza, zoster, and Tdap.
- Patients recommended to receive PPSV who can't remember ever receiving it should be vaccinated now.
- Medicare covers the cost of PPSV and its administration for all Medicare beneficiaries.

**PPSV vaccine may be given at the same visit as influenza vaccine or at any time during the year to all patients for whom it is recommended.**