Vax Facts January 13, 2020

Pneumococcal Vaccines in Adults Age ≥ 65 Years

**Background:** In 2014 the CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended 13-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (Prevnar13®) in series with 23-valent pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (Pneumovax23®) for all adults age ≥ 65 years.

In 2019 ACIP reviewed evidence that: (a) among persons age ≥ 65 years, indirect effects of routine Prevnar13 use in children since 2010 have led to historically low levels of disease caused by the 13 pneumococcal serotypes in the vaccine; and (b) those disease levels have not been significantly improved by routine Prevnar13 use in persons age ≥ 65 years since 2014.

**Recommendation:** ACIP now recommends the following.

- Prevnar13 vaccination is no longer routinely recommended for all adults age ≥ 65 years.
- Patients age ≥ 65 years who have an immunocompromising condition, CSF leak, or cochlear implant should still routinely receive Prevnar13 if they have not previously received it.
- For all others age ≥ 65 years, patient and provider should engage in shared clinical decision-making to determine whether Prevnar13 should be administered. Considerations may include both the individual patient’s risk for developing pneumococcal disease as a result of underlying medical conditions and the person’s risk for exposure to PCV13 serotypes.
- All adults age ≥ 65 years should still receive 1 dose of Pneumovax23, since it contains 11 pneumococcal serotypes not present in Prevnar13 for which there are no indirect effects from Prevnar13 use in children, and which still account for about a third of the pneumococcal disease burden in adults age ≥ 65 years. Adults age ≥ 65 years who received Pneumovax23 before age 65 years should receive 1 additional dose of Pneumovax23 at age ≥ 65 years, at least 5 years after the previous dose.
- Prevnar13 and Pneumovax23 should not be given concomitantly due to potential interference with development of immunity. The recommended intervals between Prevnar13 and Pneumovax23 doses have not changed.

**Resources:**

ACIP guidance: [https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/68/wr/mm6846a5.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/68/wr/mm6846a5.htm).

CDPH Infographic on Timing of Pneumococcal Vaccines: [http://eziz.org/assets/docs/IMM-1152.pdf](http://eziz.org/assets/docs/IMM-1152.pdf)

CDC PneumoRecs Phone App: [https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/pneumo/hcp/pneumoapp.html](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/pneumo/hcp/pneumoapp.html)

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