

Pneumococcal Vaccination

Information for Immunisation Providers

From 1 July 2020 changes will commence to the recommendations for Pneumococcal vaccine under the National Immunisation Program (NIP) schedule.

The changes will reflect the current best clinical evidence in preventing pneumococcal disease in adults and in people with conditions that increase their risk of disease.

New recommendations

The new recommendations relate to the following groups:

- Children and adults with conditions that increase the risk of pneumococcal disease
- All Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults ≥ 50 years of age
- Non-indigenous adults ≥ 70 years of age (increase from ≥ 65 years)

There are no changes to the routine infant schedule. All children are recommended to receive three doses of 13vPCV (Prevenar 13[®]) at ages 2, 4 and 12 months.

Children and adults with medical risk factors

- Children diagnosed with certain risk conditions¹ <12 months of age are recommended and funded to receive 4 doses of 13vPCV² (at ages 2, 4, 6 and 12 months) and 2 doses of 23vPPV³ (at ages 4-5 years and 5-10 years later).
- Children, adolescents and adults aged >12 months with newly identified risk conditions are recommended and funded to receive one dose of 13vPCV and 2 doses of 23vPPV.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People

- All Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults ≥ 50 years of age are recommended and funded to receive 1 dose of 13vPCV and 2 doses of 23vPPV.

Non-Indigenous adults

- All non-Indigenous healthy adults aged ≥ 70 years are recommended to receive 1 dose of 13vPCV.

¹ Refer to Table 1 for eligibility

² Prevenar 13[®]

³ Pneumovax 23[®]



Catch up recommendations

When administering 13vPCV for people who have previously received 23vPPV, the interval should be a minimum of 12 months⁴.

The number of lifetime doses of 23vPPV is limited to 2 doses for all people. Previous doses of 23vPPV received are counted when deciding on how many more are required. If a person has already received at least two doses based on previous recommendations, no further doses of 23vPPV are to be given.

* Repeat doses of 23vPPV are associated with higher rates of adverse events, especially injection site reactions. There is also a possibility that additional doses of 23vPPV (beyond 2 doses) may lead to immune hyporesponsiveness.

Details of dose intervals and catch-up recommendations are provided in the Australian Immunisation Handbook (online) - <https://immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au/>

Further information

ACT Health, Health Protection Service Immunisation Enquiry line 51249800

ACT Health website - <https://health.act.gov.au/services/immunisation>

Australian Immunisation Handbook - <https://immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au/>

NCIRS - <http://ncirs.org.au/health-professionals>

Accessibility

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⁴ Refer to the Australian Immunisation Handbook for further details



Table 1: Risk conditions for which pneumococcal vaccines are funded through the NIP

Condition	Eligibility for NIP funding	
	<5 years of age	≥5 years of age
Previous episode of invasive pneumococcal disease	✓	✓
Children born less than 28 weeks gestation	✓	
Trisomy 21	✓	
Functional or anatomical asplenia, including		
– sickle cell disease or other haemoglobinopathies	✓	✓
– congenital or acquired asplenia (for example, splenectomy) or hyposplenia	✓	✓
Immunocompromising conditions, including		
– congenital or acquired immune deficiency, including symptomatic IgG subclass or isolated IgA deficiency	✓	✓
– haematological malignancies	✓	✓
– solid organ transplant	✓	✓
– haematopoietic stem cell transplant	✓	✓
– HIV infection	✓	✓
Proven or presumptive cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) leak, including		
– cochlear implants	✓	✓
– intracranial shunts	✓	✓
– suppurative lung disease, bronchiectasis and cystic fibrosis	✓	✓
– chronic lung disease in preterm infants	✓	✓
Chronic renal disease		
– relapsing or persistent nephrotic syndrome	✓	✓
– chronic renal impairment – eGFR <30 mL/min (stage 4 or 5 disease)	✓*	✓*
Cardiac disease, including		
– congenital heart disease	✓	
– coronary artery disease	✓	
– heart failure	✓	

* Funded under the NIP for eGFR <15 mL/min only (including patients on dialysis)

All information in this fact sheet is correct as at June 2020. REPORT all vaccination to the Australia Immunisation Register (AIR).

State and territory health department contact numbers:

ACT	02 5124 9800	SA	1300 232 272
NSW	1300 066 055	TAS	1800 671 738
NT	08 8922 8044	VIC	1300 882 008
WA	08 9321 1312	QLD	Contact your local Public Health Unit



Source: National Immunisation Program – Pneumococcal vaccine schedule from 1 July 2020 Fact sheet <https://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/immunisation/health-professionals>