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# VACCINE FOCUS

## MAJORITY OF PATIENTS AGE 65+ NEED AT LEAST ONE DOSE OF PNEUMOCOCCAL VACCINE PNEUMOVAX 23 & PREVNAR 13

Here in the United States, patients are offered two different pneumococcal vaccines – Pneumovax 23 and Prevnar 13. Did you know patients age 65 and older should receive both Prevnar 13 and Pneumovax 23?

According to a recent CDC retrospective analysis, only about 1 in 5 patients 65 years of age and older have completed the CDC-recommended sequential pneumococcal 2-vaccine regimen!

This means most of your patients age 65 and older need at least one dose of pneumococcal vaccine. What are you doing about it?

The 2018 HEDIS NCQA quality measure for pneumococcal vaccination requires patients to receive both pneumococcal vaccines. When patients age 65 and older come in for any visits or during flu shot clinics, their pneumococcal vaccine status should be checked.

Everyone should be checking all patients' immunization status every time they come into the office for ANY type of visit, so there are not any missed opportunities to vaccinate patients.

**Patients depend on their medical providers to keep them informed when they need a vaccine!**



## DID YOU KNOW?

Pneumococcal disease is caused by a bacterium called streptococcus pneumoniae which has more than 90 serotypes.

According to the CDC, pneumococcal pneumonia is the most common form of pneumococcal disease in adults.

Approximately 900,000 Americans get pneumococcal pneumonia each year. As many as 400,000 hospitalizations from pneumococcal pneumonia occur each year in the United States.

Almost 95% of pneumococcal deaths in the United States are adults. Vaccination is the safest, most effective way to protect these patients!



## INSURANCE WATCH

Both Pneumovax 23 and Prevnar 13 are paid for by Medicare Part B so they can be given to patients in the office. Search 2018 ASP Drug Pricing to check Medicare reimbursement for these vaccines.

You must give the doses at least 1 year apart to get reimbursed by Medicare Part B for both vaccinations.

For additional information, please visit:

[https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/downloads/qv\\_immun\\_bill.pdf](https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/downloads/qv_immun_bill.pdf)

## Here is information to share with your physicians and staff about pneumococcal vaccination:



- ▶ Patients can receive influenza vaccine at the same time they get a dose of pneumococcal vaccine.
- ▶ All healthy patients 65 and older should receive BOTH pneumococcal vaccines.
- ▶ Do NOT give both Prevnar 13 and Pneumovax 23 at the same visit. They should be given 1 year apart.
- ▶ Patients who are 65 and older and have never received a pneumococcal vaccine should be given Prevnar 13 and then a year later should be given Pneumovax 23.
- ▶ Patients who have received one of the pneumococcal vaccines should be given the other pneumococcal vaccine if it has been at least a year.
- ▶ Immunocompromised patients ages 19-64 should receive Pneumovax 23 and Prevnar 13 as soon as possible. Please visit [www.immunize.org](http://www.immunize.org) for specific information on when Prevnar 13 and Pneumovax 23 should be given to these patients.
- ▶ Immunocompetent adults ages 19-64 with chronic heart disease, pulmonary disease (including asthma), liver disease, alcoholism, CSF leaks, cochlear implants or those who smoke cigarettes should receive one dose of Pneumovax 23 according to the CDC.
- ▶ If a patient received Pneumovax 23 before turning 65 years of age, administer Prevnar 13 at or after 65 years (as long as it has been a year since they received Pneumovax 23) and then another dose of Pneumovax 23 a year after that (as long as at least 5 years have elapsed since the first dose of Pneumovax 23).
- ▶ Check each patient's immunization record at every visit. Make sure patients are current on all vaccinations.