

Pneumococcal Vaccine Update in Adults

In 2021, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) licensed two new pneumococcal conjugate vaccines to prevent pneumococcal infections: 15-valent pneumococcal conjugate (PCV15, *Vaxneuvance*) and 20-valent pneumococcal conjugate (PCV20, *Prevnar 20*). These vaccines contain all the antigens included in the 13-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV13, *Prevnar 13*), with additional serotypes accounting for 13–28% of invasive pneumococcal disease caused by non-PCV13 serotypes in adults 65 years and older and those 19–64 years old with certain underlying conditions.¹

The 2022 Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) update on pneumococcal vaccines has simplified recommendations across age and risk groups. Eligible adults who have not previously received a pneumococcal conjugate vaccine or whose previous vaccination history is unknown may receive either PCV20 alone or PCV15 in series with 23-valent pneumococcal polysaccharide (PPSV23, *Pneumovax 23*). Updated recommendations for pneumococcal vaccinations are listed below.¹

ACIP 2022 Immunization Schedule for Pneumococcal Vaccine-Naïve Adults¹

Underlying Medical Condition	Recommendations	
	Age 19–64 years	Age ≥ 65 years
No underlying conditions	N/A	PCV20 or PCV15 followed by PPSV23 ≥ 1 year after
Chronic heart, lung, liver disease Alcoholism Diabetes mellitus Cigarette smoker		PCV20 or PCV15 followed by PPSV23 ≥ 1 year after
Cerebrospinal fluid leak Cochlear implant Immunocompromising conditions*		PCV20 or PCV15 followed by PPSV23 ≥ 8 weeks after

*Congenital or acquired asplenia, sickle cell disease or other hemoglobinopathies, chronic renal failure, generalized malignancy, HIV infection, Hodgkin's disease, iatrogenic immunosuppression, leukemia, lymphoma, multiple myeloma, nephrotic syndrome, solid organ transplant.

Recommendations for Adults with Previous Pneumococcal Vaccine^{1,2}

Previous Vaccine		Recommendations
Previous PCV and PPSV23		No further vaccination required
Previous PPSV23 only		PCV15 or PCV20 ≥ 1 year after PPSV23*
Previous PCV13 only	Age ≥ 65 years	1 dose of PPSV23 ^{†‡}
	Age ≥ 19 years with cerebrospinal fluid leak or cochlear implant	1 dose of PPSV23 before age 65 years and 1 dose of PPSV23 at age 65 or older ^{†‡}
	Age ≥ 19 years with immunocompromising condition	2 doses of PPSV23 before age 65 years and 1 dose of PPSV23 at age 65 or older ^{†‡}

*PCV15 does not need to be followed by another dose of PPSV23.

[†]PPSV23 should be given at least one year after PCV13 and at least five years after any PPSV23 given prior to age 65. In adults with immunocompromising conditions, cochlear implant or CSF leak, first PPSV23 dose should be given at least eight weeks after PCV13.

[‡]One dose of PCV20 may be used if PPSV23 is not available. If PCV20 is used, their pneumococcal vaccinations are complete.

References

- Kobayashi M, Farrar JL, Gierke R, et al. Use of 15-Valent Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine and 20-Valent Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine Among U.S. Adults: Updated Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices — United States, 2022. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2022;71:109–117. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm7104a1>. Accessed March 29, 2022.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Pneumococcal Vaccine Timing for Adults. Updated April 1, 2022. <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/pneumo/downloads/pneumo-vaccine-timing.pdf>. Accessed April 11, 2022.

Medi-Cal Rx Contract Drug List: <https://medi-calrx.dhcs.ca.gov/home/cdl/>

OneCare Formulary: www.caloptima.org/en/ForProviders/PharmacyInformation/OneCareMedicarePartD.aspx