

TO: Healthcare Providers, Hospitals, Long-Term Care Facilities, Pharmacies, and Local Health Departments

FROM: New York State Department of Health Bureau of Immunization

HEALTH ADVISORY:

NEW PNEUMOCOCCAL VACCINE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADULTS

Please distribute to the Medical Director, Director of Nursing, Primary Care Clinic Directors, Director of Pharmacy, Infection Control Department, and all patient care areas.

SUMMARY

- The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has issued new recommendations for pneumococcal vaccination of adults.
- Adults aged 65 years or older who have not previously received any pneumococcal vaccine or whose vaccination history is unknown should receive a dose of the pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV13, Prevnar-13®), followed 6-12 months later by a dose of the pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPSV23, Pneumovax®23).
- Adults 65 years of age or older who have previously received PPSV23, on or after age 65 years, should receive PCV13 at least 1 year after their most recent dose of PPSV23.
 - Adults who received PPSV23 before age 65 years should receive PCV13 on or after age 65 years and at least 1 year after the dose of PPSV23, followed by a second dose of PPSV23 6 to 12 months after the dose of PCV13, and at least 5 years after the first dose of PPSV23.
- Refer to algorithm on page 4 of this document.
- Currently, Medicare Part B covers only one dose of pneumococcal vaccine, either PCV13 or PPSV23 but not both, for adults 65 years of age or older.
- Healthcare providers should not hesitate to administer PCV13 vaccine to adults 65 years of age or older who have not previously received any pneumococcal vaccine or whose vaccination history is unknown.
- Healthcare providers should discuss with previously-vaccinated patients the risks and benefits of administering PCV13 vaccine at this time versus deferring vaccination until such time as it is covered by Medicare.

New Recommendations for Pneumococcal Vaccination of Adults Aged 65 Years or Older
On September 19, 2014, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) published new ACIP recommendations for pneumococcal vaccination of adults. Adults aged 65 years or older are now recommended to be vaccinated with the pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV13, Prevnar-13®) first and then be vaccinated with the pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPSV23, Pneumovax®23) 6-12 months later. The two vaccines should not be co-administered, and the minimum acceptable interval between PCV13 and PPSV23 is 8 weeks. Adults 65 years

