

Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Update Recommendations for Vaccination against Pneumococcal Pneumonia

Updated CDC Recommendations for Vaccination against Pneumococcal Pneumonia

CDC now recommends new pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV; PCV20 or PCV15) for adults who have never received a prior pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV13) if they are

- a) 65 years or older, and/or
- b) 19 years or older with certain chronic medical conditions or other risk factors

- **Adults aged ≥ 65 years – Those who have no known previous receipt of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV) should receive 1 dose of PCV (either PCV20 or PCV15). When PCV15 is used, it should be followed by 1 dose of pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPSV23) typically ≥ 1 year later. [NEW]**
- **Adults aged 19–64 years with certain underlying medical conditions or other risk factors (Table 1) – Those who have no known previous receipt of PCV should receive 1 dose of PCV (either PCV20 or PCV15). When PCV15 is used, it should be followed by 1 dose of PPSV23 typically ≥ 1 year later. [NEW]**
- **Adults having started their adult pneumococcal vaccinations with receipt of PPSV23 (only) may receive PCV15 alone or PCV20 alone, ≥ 1 year after the PPSV23 dose, with no PPSV23 revaccination required. [NEW]**
- **Adults having started their adult pneumococcal vaccinations with receipt of PCV13 (only) should receive PPSV23 as recommended per previous policy/schedule.**
- **Adults having completed their recommended pneumococcal vaccine schedules need no revaccination at this time.**

Key Events Timeline

06/10/21: **FDA approves [PREVNAR 20™ \(PCV20\)](#)** for the active immunization for the prevention of pneumonia and invasive disease caused by *Streptococcus pneumoniae* serotypes 1, 3, 4, 5, 6A, 6B, 7F, 8, 9V, 10A, 11A, 12F, 14, 15B, 18C, 19A, 19F, 22F, 23F and 33F in adults 18 years of age and older.

07/16/21: **FDA approves [VAXNEUVANCE™ \(PCV15\)](#)** for the active immunization for the prevention of invasive disease caused by *Streptococcus pneumoniae* serotypes 1, 3, 4, 5, 6A, 6B, 7F, 9V, 14, 18C, 19A, 19F, 22F, 23F and 33F in adults 18 years of age and older.

10/20/21: **ACIP reviews data on these new pneumococcal vaccines and recommends use of either PCV20 alone or PCV15 in series with PPSV23 for all adults aged ≥ 65 years, and for adults aged 19–64 years with certain underlying medical conditions or other risk factors who are PCV-naïve or whose previous vaccination history is unknown.**

01/28/22: **CDC Director reviews ACIP endorsements and adopts policy as official CDC/HHS recommendation, with supporting evidence and clinical guidance published in the [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#) (Vol. 71 / No.4).**

Implications

CMS State Operations Manual §483.21(b)(3)(i) states that “... care and services [must be] provided according to accepted standards of clinical practice” (**F658**) and §483.80(d)(2) includes notice that “facilities must follow the CDC and ACIP recommendations for vaccines” (**F883**). As ACIP/CDC have updated these guiding recommendations, use of PCV20 and PCV15 consistent with their recommendations will be required to meet standards of practice going forward.

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Clinical Guidance

TABLE 1. Recommendations for use of 15-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine in series with 23-valent pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine or 20-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine in pneumococcal conjugate vaccine-naïve adults aged ≥19 years — United States, 2022

Medical indication group	Specific underlying medical condition	Age group, yrs	
		19–64	≥65
None	None	None	1 dose of PCV20 or 1 dose of PCV15 followed by a dose of PPSV23 ≥1 years later*
Underlying medical conditions or other risk factors	Alcoholism Chronic heart disease† Chronic liver disease Chronic lung disease†† Cigarette smoking Diabetes mellitus Cochlear implant CSF leak Congenital or acquired asplenia Sickle cell disease or other hemoglobinopathies Chronic renal failure**	Congenital or acquired immunodeficiencies**,†† Generalized malignancy** HIV infection** Hodgkin disease** Iatrogenic immunosuppression**,§§ Leukemia** Lymphoma** Multiple myeloma** Nephrotic syndrome** Solid organ transplant**	1 dose of PCV20 or 1 dose of PCV15 followed by a dose of PPSV23 ≥1 years later§ 1 dose of PCV20 or 1 dose of PCV15 followed by a dose of PPSV23 ≥1 years later*

Abbreviations: CSF = cerebrospinal fluid; PCV15 = 15-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine; PCV20 = 20-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine; PPSV23 = 23-valent pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine.

* Adults with immunocompromising conditions, cochlear implant, or CSF leak might benefit from shorter intervals such as ≥8 weeks. These vaccine doses do not need to be repeated if given before age 65 years.

† Includes congestive heart failure and cardiomyopathies.

†† Adults with immunocompromising conditions, cochlear implant, or CSF leak might benefit from shorter intervals such as ≥8 weeks.

§ Includes chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, emphysema, and asthma.

** Indicates immunocompromising conditions.

†† Includes B- (humoral) or T-lymphocyte deficiency, complement deficiencies (particularly C1, C2, C3, and C4 deficiencies), and phagocytic disorders (excluding chronic granulomatous disease).

§§ Diseases requiring treatment with immunosuppressive drugs, including long-term systemic corticosteroids and radiation therapy.

Dosing Schedule:

PCV-naïve adults receiving PCV15: ≥1 year interval recommended before administration of PPSV23. A **minimum interval of 8 weeks** can be considered for adults with an immunocompromising condition, cochlear implant, or CSF leak to minimize Invasive Pneumococcal Disease risk caused by PPSV23-unique serotypes in these vulnerable groups.

Adults with previous PPSV23 only may receive either PCV20 or PCV15 ≥1 year after their last PPSV23 dose. When PCV15 is used in those with history of PPSV23 receipt, it need **not** be followed by another dose of PPSV23.

Adults with previous PCV13: The incremental public health benefits of providing PCV15 or PCV20 to adults who have received PCV13 only or both PCV13 and PPSV23 have not been evaluated. **These adults should complete the previously recommended PPSV23 series.**

See the CDC’s [Pneumococcal Vaccine Timing for Adults](#) for specific guidance around this previously recommended vaccine schedule for individuals having received PCV13.

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