

Important Information about SMOKING and Pneumococcal Disease

Talk to Your Patients about Protecting Themselves from this Dangerous Infection



Saving Lives:
Integrating
Vaccines for
Adults Into
Routine Care

- Cigarette smoking is the strongest independent risk factor for invasive pneumococcal disease (meningitis, sepsis) in immunocompetent adults younger than age 65.
- About half of otherwise healthy adults younger than age 65 who develop severe pneumococcal disease are smokers.
- Pneumococcal disease causes serious illnesses like pneumonia, meningitis, and sepsis.
- Pneumococcal disease is serious and deadly. In the US, pneumococcal pneumonia, meningitis, and sepsis kill tens of thousands each year.
- Pneumococcal disease survivors may suffer hearing loss, seizures, blindness, or paralysis.
- Pneumococcal vaccination is recommended for all adults who smoke.

Adult SMOKERS Are Among Those Who Need Pneumococcal Vaccination

There are two types of pneumococcal vaccine recommended for US adults: a pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV13) and a pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPSV23).

Adults 65 and older, and adults age 19 to 64 years with any of the following need to receive both vaccines: immunocompromising conditions or treatments (e.g., HIV/AIDS, leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin disease, radiation therapy); a damaged or missing spleen; cochlear implants; or cerebrospinal fluid leaks.

Other adults for whom pneumococcal vaccination is recommended only need PPSV23, but may need more than one dose and will need PCV13 when they, too, reach age 65. Please refer to the [Adult Pneumococcal Vaccination Guide](#) or visit cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/pneumo/ for details on timing of vaccine doses.

For more information and resources to educate patients about pneumococcal disease, visit adultvaccination.org/professional-resources/pneumo



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