

# Important Information about DIABETES and Pneumococcal Disease

Talk to Your Patients about Protecting Themselves from this Dangerous Infection



Saving Lives:  
Integrating  
Vaccines for  
Adults Into  
Routine Care

- Patients with diabetes are at an increased risk for complications from pneumococcal disease.
- Diabetes may be a unique risk factor for increased incidence of bacteremia associated with pneumococcal infection.
- One of the reasons people with diabetes are at greater risk for pneumococcal disease is that they may have abnormalities in immune function that affect their reaction to infection.
- Pneumococcal disease causes serious illnesses like meningitis, bacteremia, and pneumonia.
- Invasive pneumococcal disease is particularly deadly. Pneumococcal bacteremia and meningitis kill 15 to 20 percent and 16 to 37 percent of those infected, respectively.
- Pneumococcal disease survivors may suffer hearing loss, seizures, blindness, or paralysis.
- Pneumococcal vaccination is recommended for all adults with diabetes. Medicare and most private insurance companies pay for vaccination for patients who need it.

## **Adults with DIABETES are among those who need pneumococcal vaccination**

**The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPSV23) for adults with diabetes and other risk factors:**

- Anyone age 65 and older
- Adults age 19-64 with any of the following conditions: asthma, diabetes, lung, heart, or liver disease, or alcoholism
- Cigarette smokers
- Residents of long-term care facilities

*Most of these adults need only one vaccination. Patients with diabetes and no additional risk factor require a second dose of vaccine at age 65 if it's been five years since their first dose.*

**CDC also recommends pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV13) in addition to PPSV23 for the following adults:**

- Immunocompromising conditions (HIV/AIDS, lymphoma or leukemia, chronic kidney disease) or receiving immunosuppressive treatment (steroids, radiation therapy, etc.)
- Damaged or no spleen
- Cochlear implants or cerebro-spinal fluid leaks

*The number and timing of doses for these adults varies. For more information, refer to the Pneumococcal Vaccination Guide for Adults or visit: [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/pneumo/](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/pneumo/).*

*For more information and resources to educate patients about pneumococcal disease, visit: [Adultvaccination.org/pneumotools](http://Adultvaccination.org/pneumotools).*