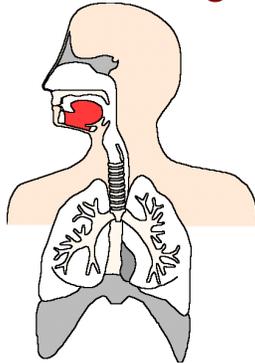


# Patient Teaching Guides



## Pneumonia and Pneumococcal Vaccinations

### Facts

- Annually in the United States there are 50,000 cases of bacteremia; 3,000 cases of meningitis; and 500,000 cases of pneumonia caused by *Streptococcus pneumoniae*.
- 40,000 of these cases result in death.
- Approximately 20,000 deaths could potentially be prevented through vaccination.
- All persons aged 65 and older should be vaccinated. Younger persons at high-risk should also be vaccinated.
- Only 36% of Americans over 65 years old have taken advantage of this protection.
- Vaccine is highly effective and safe, and protects against 23 types of pneumococcal disease.
- Vaccine is Medicaid/Medicare reimbursable.

Pneumococcal disease can lead to serious infections of the lungs (pneumonia), the blood (bacteremia), and the covering of the brain (meningitis). About 1 out of every 20 people who get pneumococcal pneumonia dies from it, as do about 2 out of 10 people who get bacteremia, and 3 out of 10 who get meningitis.

Drugs such as penicillin were once effective in treating these infections, but the disease has become more resistant to these drugs, making treatment of pneumococcal infections more difficult. *This makes prevention of the disease through vaccination even more important.*

Health officials recommend that all adults 65 years of age or older receive the vaccine. Those who should also receive the vaccine are:

- Anyone over 2 years of age who has a long-term health problem such as heart disease, sickle cell disease, alcoholism, lung disease, diabetes, cirrhosis, or leaks of cerebrospinal fluid.
- Anyone over 2 years of age who has a disease or condition that lowers the body's resistance to infections, such as Hodgkins disease, kidney failure, nephrotic syndrome, damaged spleen or no spleen, lymphoma, leukemia, multiple myeloma, HIV infection or AIDS, or organ transplant.
- Anyone over 2 years of age who is taking any drug or treatment that lowers the body's resistance to infections, such as long term steroids, radiation therapy, or certain cancer drugs.
- Alaskan and certain Native American populations.

Usually one dose of the vaccine is all that is needed. However, a second dose is recommended for those 65 and older who got their first dose when they were under 65 or if 5 or more years have passed since that

dose.

A second dose is also recommended for people who have a damaged spleen or no spleen, sickle-cell disease, HIV infection or AIDS, cancer, leukemia, lymphoma multiple myeloma, kidney failure, nephrotic syndrome, had an organ or bone marrow transplant, or are taking medications that lowers immunity (such as chemotherapy or long-term steroids).

Children 10 years old and younger may get this second dose 3 years after the first dose. Those older than 10 should receive the second dose 5 years after the first dose.

The pneumonia vaccine can be given any time of the year. Typically, patients receive the pneumonia vaccine at the same time as their flu shot.