

Pneumococcal Infections

The Issue:

- Pneumococcal infection rates within the catchment area of Northwestern Health Unit are higher than the provincial rate.
- Data shows that the majority of identified cases have not received pneumococcal immunization.

What we can do:

Immunize

- Pneumococcal vaccine (Pneumo 23) can prevent pneumonia and other infections caused by 23 types of the Streptococcus pneumoniae bacteria. These 23 types account for approximately 90% of pneumococcal disease. Pneumo 23 vaccine is publicly funded for anyone 65 years of age and older as well as those with high risk conditions (see pocket guide linked below).
- NACI recommends both Pneumo 23 and Prevnar 13 vaccines however, Prevnar 13 is only publicly funded in Ontario for very specific conditions (see below). Patients wanting to have Prevnar 13 who do not meet the publicly funded criteria need a prescription to purchase the vaccine from a pharmacy. For clients having both vaccines it is recommended to have Prevnar 13 vaccine on the first visit and then 8 weeks later have the Pneumo 23.
- Publicly funded Prevnar 13 eligibility includes those 50 years and older with the following conditions:
 - Asplenia;
 - Sickle cell disease or other hemoglobinopathies;
 - Congenital immunodeficiencies involving any part of the immune system, including B-lymphocyte (humoral) immunity, T-lymphocyte (cell) mediated immunity, complement system (properdin or factor D deficiencies) or phagocytic functions;
 - HIV;
 - HSCT recipient - (3 doses of Pneu-C-13 at least 4 weeks apart, starting 3-9 months after transplant);
 - Immunocompromising therapy including use of long-term corticosteroids, chemotherapy, radiation therapy, post-organ transplant therapy, biologic and certain anti-rheumatic drugs;
 - Malignant neoplasms including leukemia and lymphoma; or
 - Solid organ or islet cell transplant

Helpful Tips:

- See [Pocket Guide re: Pneumococcal Vaccination in Adults](#) for information re: eligible conditions, dosing schedule and administration.
- Remember to order Pneumo 23 vaccine with your [monthly order](#) from the Northwestern Health



Northwestern
Health Unit

www.nwhu.on.ca