Updated Adult Pneumococcal Vaccination Recommendations

ACIP Recommendations

In 2021, 20-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV20) and 15-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV15) were licensed by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for use in adults. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) now recommends PCV20 or PCV15 for all adults aged ≥65 years and adults aged 19–64 years with certain underlying medical conditions (Box). If PCV15 is used, it should be followed by a dose of 23-valent pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPSV23).

Box. Recommendations for Use of Pneumococcal Vaccines among Adults Aged 19 Years or Older

• Adults aged 265 years, OR
• Adults aged 19–64 years with certain underlying medical conditions or other risk factors
  • Adults who have not previously received PCV or whose previous vaccination history is unknown should receive 1 dose of PCV
  • When PCV15 is used, it should be followed by 1 dose of PPSV23 ≥1 year later (an earlier interval can be considered for certain high-risk adults).
  • If PCV20 is used, a dose of PPSV23 is NOT indicated.

• Adults who previously received PPSV23 only
  • Adults who have only previously received PPSV23 may receive a PCV (either PCV20 or PCV15) ≥1 year after their last PPSV23 dose.
  • When PCV13 or PCV20 is used in those with previous PPSV23 receipt, it need not be followed by another dose of PPSV23.

• Adults who previously received PCV13
  • Adults aged 19–64 years with underlying medical conditions or other risk factors (Table) who previously received PCV13 but have not completed their recommended pneumococcal vaccine series with PPSV23 may receive 1 dose of PCV20 if PPSV23 is not available.
  • If PCV20 is used, their pneumococcal vaccination is complete.
  • Adults aged ≥65 years who previously received PCV13 should receive 1 dose of PPSV23 ≥1 year after PCV13 was received.

Abbreviations: PCV = Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine; PCV20 = 20-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine; PCV15 = 15-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine; PPSV23 = 23-valent pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine.

Alaska Recommendations and Rationale

The Alaska Immunization Program further recommends for the use of PCV among aults aged ≥65 years and adults aged 19–64 with an underlying medical condition or other risk factor. The great majority (85%) of Alaska adults aged 19–64 years with PCV had an underlying medical condition or other risk factor for which PCV would now be recommended. Because IPD rates remain substantially higher among Alaska Native adults (Figure), implementation of these new recommendations will be particularly impactful in this population.

Alaska clinicians should vaccinate adults with PCV20 or PCV15 in accordance with the new ACIP recommendations. Health care providers and tribal health organizations statewide should develop systems to identify adults with underlying medical conditions or risk factors for whom PCV is recommended. The Alaska Immunization Program is supplying PCV20 for those providers enrolled to receive state-supplied vaccine. Clinicians may contact the Alaska Immunization Program at 907-269-8808 for more information.

Reference

2. CDC Pneumococcal Vaccine Recommendations website. Available at: https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pv/pneumococcal/recommendations.html