

Pneumococcal Infection: Adult Vaccination

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Equipment

- Vaccine (PNEUMOVAX 23 or alternative pneumococcal vaccine as ordered by Medical Officer)
- Medical waste (sharps) container
- Sterile syringe
- Appropriate drawing up and injection needle
- Clean cotton wool and tape
- Alcohol wipe

Recommended Practice

CONTRAINDICATIONS:

- Any history of anaphylaxis or severe allergic reaction to any component of the vaccine

PRECAUTIONS:

- Vaccinations should be deferred in a patient with a moderate or severe acute illness.
- Caution is required for patients with severely compromised cardiovascular and/or pulmonary function.

PRE-INJECTION:

1. Ensure an anaphylaxis response kit is available.
2. Confirm patient details and vaccination.
3. Obtain consent and record.
4. Conduct pre-vaccination screening checklist to check for allergies and contraindicating conditions. Pre-vaccination screening includes documenting the following:
 - Name of person to be vaccinated
 - Date of birth
 - Age today
 - Name of person completing this form
 - Indicate if the person to be vaccinated:
 - is unwell today
 - has a disease that lowers immunity (e.g. leukemia, cancer, HIV/AIDS) or is having treatment that lowers immunity (e.g. oral steroid medicines such as cortisone and prednisone, radiotherapy, chemotherapy)
 - has had a severe reaction following any vaccine
 - has *any* severe allergies (to anything)
 - has had any vaccine in the past month

- has had an injection of immunoglobulin, or received any blood products or a whole blood transfusion within the past year
- is pregnant
- has a past history of Guillain-Barré syndrome
- was a preterm infant
- has a chronic illness
- has a bleeding disorder
- identifies as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- does not have a functioning spleen
- is planning a pregnancy or anticipating parenthood
- is a parent, grandparent or carer of a newborn
- lives with someone who has a disease that lowers immunity (e.g. leukemia, cancer, HIV/AIDS), or lives with someone who is having treatment that lowers immunity (e.g. oral steroid medicines such as cortisone and prednisone, radiotherapy, chemotherapy)
- is planning travel
- has an occupation or lifestyle factor(s) for which vaccination may be needed (discuss with doctor/nurse).

5. Wash hands and apply gloves.

INJECTION:

1. Remove the vaccine from the refrigerator and check that it is not expired, does not contain any particulate matter or appears discolored.
 - If any of these factors are present the vaccine is NOT to be used.
2. If the vaccine is not in a preloaded syringe, use the drawing up needle to obtain the recommended dose for the vaccine (recommended dose for PNEUMOVAX 23 is 0.5mL).
3. Discard of the drawing up needle into the sharps bin and replace with the appropriate injection needle (PNEUMOVAX 23 is to be given subcutaneously or intramuscularly; DO NOT give PNEUMOVAX 23 intravenously or intradermally).
4. Select injection site (preferred sites for PNEUMOVAX 23 injection are the deltoid muscle or lateral mid-thigh).
5. Clean injection site with alcohol wipe and wait for it to dry.
6. Give the injection using the appropriate technique.

POST VACCINATION:

1. Dispose of all clinical waste appropriately.
2. Cover injection site with dry cotton wool and tape.
3. Gently apply pressure for one to two minutes, do not rub the site.
4. Remove the cotton wool after a few minutes and expose to air.
5. Record and document the details of the vaccination given.
6. Patient should be advised to remain in the vicinity for a minimum of 15 minutes for observation.

Supporting Evidence Summaries

- JBI-ES-3614-4-Vaccines: Preventing Pneumococcal Infection in Adults

Archived Publications

1. JBI-RP-4746-2 (Published at 18 May 2021)
2. JBI-RP-4746-1 (Published at 13 May 2021)

Occupational Health and Safety Considerations



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For details on the method for development see Munn Z, Lockwood C, Moola S. The development and use of evidence summaries for point of care information systems: A streamlined rapid review approach. *Worldviews Evid Based Nurs.* 2015;12(3):131-8.

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