

Pneumococcal Immunization for Patients and Residents

1. Introduction

1.1. Purpose

Providence Health Care (PHC) is committed to the health and well-being of our patients and residents.

Admission to PHC facilities represents an opportunity for vaccination among hospitalized patients and residents that have not received vaccination in the community. This policy addresses pneumococcal vaccination (23-valent polysaccharide formulation [PPV-23]).

1.2. Scope

This policy applies to all hospitalized patients and residents of PHC facilities.

Exceptions to this policy include any hospitalized patient or resident who refuses to provide consent for PPV-23 and any hospitalized patient or resident who has received the PPV-23 in the previous 5 years or who has a known hypersensitivity to PPV-23.

2. Policy

To help protect our patients and residents from developing invasive pneumococcal disease, Health Care Providers will offer PPV-23 to patients and residents as recommended by the National Advisory Committee on Immunization and the Vancouver Coastal Health Medical Health Officer.

PPV-23 is recommended according to the National Advisory Committee on Immunizations and the Medical Health Officer and should be offered – on a case-by-case basis – to the following groups:

- adults with pulmonary disorders, chronic heart disease, chronic neurologic conditions that may impair clearance of oral secretions, diabetes mellitus, renal disease, sickle cell disease, hemoglobinopathy, asplenia, HIV infection, liver cirrhosis, cerebrospinal fluid leaks, and immunodeficiency or immunosuppression (due to underlying disease and/or therapy)
- persons ≥ 65 years of age
- persons with cochlear implants
- persons with alcoholism and smoking
- persons who are homeless or inject drugs.

The goal of immunization is to diminish the effects from invasive pneumococcal disease.

2.1. Eligibility

All hospitalized patients and residents in Long Term Care Homes with risk factors as defined above and who do not have a contraindication to the vaccine are eligible.

Patients and residents may require a repeat immunization after 5 years. This should be at the discretion of the attending physician and on a case-by-case basis.

All hospitalized patients and residents ≥ 65 years old who have not had PPV-23 within the past 5 years, or in whom the immunization status is unknown require a single dose of the PPV-23 vaccine.

Consent is required.

Acute Care

If a hospitalized patient meets the criteria for immunization, the attending physician will complete the order.

Long Term Care

Physicians attending to residents in PHC Long Term Care homes will complete a pre-admission medical summary, which includes current immunization and screening information, upon admission to the unit.

If immunization status of a resident is unknown or unobtainable, or if the resident meets the criteria for immunization, the attending physician will complete the order form indicating that the resident should receive PPV-23

A registered nurse assigned to care for the resident should carry out this order.

The registered nurse will complete the Long Term Care Immunization and Prophylaxis record within one week of resident admission.

The Registered Nurse will update the Long Term Care Immunization and Prophylaxis Record when the resident has received immunization while in acute care or during annual care conferences as required.

3. Compliance

All PHC Health Care Providers are responsible for adhering to this policy and monitoring their activities in accordance with the policy.

4. Supporting Documents

4.1. Related Policies

[Hand Hygiene](#)

[Influenza Immunization](#)

[Influenza Immunization for Patients and Residents](#)

5. Definitions

“Pneumococcal Pneumonia” means infection of the lungs caused by *Streptococcus pneumoniae*. Symptoms include fever, productive cough and sometimes pleuritic chest pain.

“Invasive Pneumococcal Disease” means a condition during which *S. pneumoniae* invades the bloodstream leading to sepsis and/or meningitis.

6. References

1. Canadian Immunization Guide Seventh Edition - 2006.
2. <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/cig-gci/p04-pneu-eng.php>
3. National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI).
4. <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/naci-ccni/index-eng.php>
5. National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI). [Update on the use of pneumococcal vaccines in adults 65 years of age and older – A public health perspective](#). November 2018.