

# Vaccines for Adults

## New Pneumococcal Vaccine Transition FAQs

To help providers transition to using the new pneumococcal vaccines, Vanxneuvance (PCV15) or Prevnar 20 (PCV20) for adults 19 years of age & older, the Immunization Program has collected a list of frequently asked questions. Have a question that doesn't appear on the list below? Email us at [dphproviderhelp@phila.gov](mailto:dphproviderhelp@phila.gov)!

### What are the new pneumococcal vaccination recommendations for adults 19 years of age and older?

#### Adults aged ≥65 years:

Adults aged ≥65 years who have not previously received PCV or whose previous vaccination history is unknown should receive 1 dose of PCV (either PCV20 or PCV15). *When PCV15 is used, it should be followed by a dose of Pnuemovax 23 (PPSV23) one year later.*

#### Adults aged 19–64 years with certain underlying medical conditions or other risk factors:

Adults between the ages of 19–64 years with certain underlying medical conditions or other risk factors who have not previously received PCV or whose previous vaccination history is unknown should receive 1 dose of PCV (either PCV20 or PCV15). *When PCV15 is used, it should be followed by a dose of PPSV23 one year later.*

### What is the recommendation for vaccinations with PCV15 and PCV20 for adults 19 years and older who have a history of vaccination with Prevnar 13 (PCV13) or PPSV23?

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

Adults who have received PCV13 only or both PCV13 and PPSV23 should complete the previously recommended PPSV23 series. For adults who have received PCV13 but have not completed their recommended pneumococcal vaccine series with PPSV23, one dose of PCV20 may be used if PPSV23 is not available.

### For adults age 65 years and older without high-risk conditions who have already received PCV13, should they now get PCV15 or PCV20?

**No.** However, adults who received PCV13 should complete their PPSV23 vaccination 1 year after PCV13. If PPSV23 is not available when the vaccination is due, but PCV20 is available, PCV20 may be given.

### What is the guidance for use of PCV13 for adults 19 years of age and older under the new recommendations?

PCV13 is no longer recommended for adults under the new recommendations. Providers should no longer administer PCV13 to individuals 19 years of age and older.

### Can the pneumococcal vaccines be administered at the same time as other vaccines?

Yes. PCV15, PCV20 and PPSV23 are inactivated vaccines. All inactivated vaccines, including COVID-19 vaccines, can be given on the same day, or on any day before or after giving other inactivated or live vaccines. PCV15, PCV20 and PPSV23 should not be administered at the same time.

### What is the guidance for use of PPSV23 for adults 19 years of age and older under the new recommendations?

PPSV23 should be administered ≥1 year after the administration of PCV15 or to complete a series following previous administration of PCV13. All adults for whom pneumococcal vaccination is recommended due to age (65 or older) or an underlying condition (age 19 through 64) are now recommended to receive a conjugate vaccine, even if they were only recommended to receive a single dose of PPSV23 alone in the past. Recipients of PPSV23 should now receive either PCV20 or PCV15 at least 1 year after the dose of PPSV23. Adults who have had PCV13 should receive PPSV23 as recommended for them before the introduction of PCV15 and PCV20, based on age or risk factors, as described elsewhere.

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### For adults who have already received PCV13 or who will receive PCV15, and a PPSV23 vaccination is recommended 1 year later, what is the definition of a year?

ACIP does not define “one year” but this is assumed to be one calendar year. Receiving PPSV23 a few days or weeks earlier than one calendar year after PCV13 or PCV15 is not a medical problem. However, it could be a problem for reimbursement since Medicare will only pay for both a PCV vaccine and a PPSV23 vaccine if they are given at least 11 months apart. Private insurance may have similar rules. Here is the wording from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS): “An initial pneumococcal vaccine may be administered to all Medicare beneficiaries who have never received a pneumococcal vaccine under Medicare Part B. A different, second pneumococcal vaccine may be administered 1 year after the first vaccine was administered (i.e., 11 full months have passed following the month in which the last pneumococcal vaccine was administered).”

### What pneumococcal vaccine should our site order for our adult patients going forward?

Your site should order PCV20 or PCV15 and PPSV23 to ensure that eligible adult patients are protected.

## Resources

For more information about the new pneumococcal vaccine recommendations please refer to following materials by copying the URL into your browser or scanning the QR codes.

### MMWR

<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/wr/mm7104a1.htm>



### Vaxneuvance package insert

<https://www.fda.gov/media/150819/download>



### Pevnar 20 package insert

<https://www.fda.gov/media/149987/download>



### Vaccine Information Statement (VIS)

<https://www.immunize.org/vis/pcv.pdf>



### Immunize.org

[https://www.immunize.org/askexperts/experts\\_pneumococcal\\_vaccines.asp#rec\\_adult](https://www.immunize.org/askexperts/experts_pneumococcal_vaccines.asp#rec_adult)

