



Patient & Family Guide  
2018

# **Pevnar<sup>®</sup> 13** **(Pneumococcal** **Conjugate Vaccine)** **and Kidney Disease**



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# **Pevnar<sup>®</sup> 13**

## **(Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine)**

## **and Kidney Disease**

### **What is Pevnar<sup>®</sup> 13?**

- Pevnar<sup>®</sup> 13 is a vaccine that protects against infections caused by the *Streptococcus pneumoniae* bacteria.
- This vaccine is safe and works well to protect against infections caused by the 13 most common types of this bacteria.
- The vaccine does not contain any blood or living virus.
- The vaccine is given by injection, usually into the muscle in your upper arm.
- Adults only need to be immunized once to be protected.

## What is *Streptococcus pneumoniae*?

- *Streptococcus pneumoniae* is a type of bacteria.
- Many people carry it in the back of their throat or nose.
- The bacteria spreads from person to person by droplets when coughing or sneezing.
- This bacteria can cause many types of infections, some of which can be life-threatening.
- Infections commonly caused by *Streptococcus pneumoniae* include:
  - › pneumonia – an infection in the lungs, sometimes called a chest infection
  - › meningitis – an infection of the lining around the brain
  - › bacteremia – an infection of the blood and organs
  - › sinusitis – a sinus infection
  - › otitis media – a middle ear infection

## Why do I need to get vaccinated?

- Most infections caused by *Streptococcus pneumoniae* can be prevented with immunization.
- Pevnar® 13 is recommended for adults with a weakened immune system as a result of:
  - › solid organ transplant
  - › spleen disorders
  - › cancer
  - › taking medications that can lower your immune response

## What are the possible side effects of Pevnar® 13?

Possible side effects include:

- Burning and/or stinging at the injection site at the time of injection. This will go away after a short time.
- Pain, swelling, and redness at the injection site. This will go away after a short time.
- Fever. This can be treated with acetaminophen (Tylenol®). If you are allergic to acetaminophen, ask your health care provider.

## Who should not get Prevnar® 13?

Do not get Prevnar® 13 if you:

- Have a fever over 39.5°C or an illness other than a minor cold
- Have had a serious allergic reaction to a previous dose of the vaccine or to any part of the vaccine

## Note: There are 2 types of pneumococcal vaccines:

- Prevnar® 13 (pneumococcal conjugate vaccine) is for adults with certain high-risk medical conditions (such as having an organ transplant, having a low immune system, or being on immunosuppressant medications). The vaccine is attached to a protein which helps your body respond to the vaccine.
- Pneumovax® 23 (pneumococcal vaccine polyvalent) is for adults over 65 years of age, and for adults under 65 years of age with certain medical conditions (such as kidney disease).

You may need both vaccinations. Please talk to your health care provider to find out which vaccine(s) is right for you.

## When should I get each vaccine?

**If you have not had ANY pneumococcal vaccines:**

- Get Prevnar® 13 first, then wait at least 8 weeks before getting Pneumovax® 23

**If you have had Prevnar® 13:**

- Wait at least 8 weeks before getting Pneumovax® 23
- Wait at least 5 years before getting a second dose of Pneumovax® 23

**If you have had Pneumovax® 23:**

- Wait at least 1 year before getting Prevnar® 13

**What are your questions?**

**Please ask. We are here to help you.**

# Notes:

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For more information, go to <http://library.novascotia.ca>

Connect with a registered nurse in Nova Scotia any time: call 811 or visit <https://811.novascotia.ca>

Learn about other programs and services in your community: call 211 or visit <http://ns.211.ca>

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WQ85-1889 © July 2018 Nova Scotia Health Authority

The information in this pamphlet is to be updated every 3 years or as needed.