



Patient & Family Guide
2018

Pneumovax[®] 23 **(Pneumococcal Vaccine** **Polyvalent)** **and Kidney Disease**



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Pneumovax[®] 23

(Pneumococcal Vaccine Polyvalent) and Kidney Disease

What is Pneumovax[®] 23?

- Pneumovax[®] 23 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 23 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.
- Most people only need to be immunized once. However, people with kidney disease are at a higher risk of infection and need a second dose after 5 years.

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.
- Pneumovax[®] 23 is recommended for:
 - › everyone over the age of 65
 - › people that live in long-term care facilities
 - › people with chronic kidney disease and certain other medical conditions

What are the possible side effects of Pneumovax[®] 23?

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 Pneumovax® 23?

Do not get Pneumovax® 23 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:

- 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 (including kidney disease).
- Prevnar® 13 (pneumococcal conjugate vaccine) is for adults with certain high-risk medical conditions.

You may need both vaccinations. Please talk with 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 Pneumovax® 23:

- Wait at least 1 year before getting Prevnar® 13
- Wait at least 5 years before getting a second dose of Pneumovax® 23

If you have had Prevnar® 13:

- Wait at least 8 weeks before getting Pneumovax® 23

What are your questions?

Please ask. We are here to help you.

