### Patient & Family Guide

2022

## Pneumovax® 23 (Pneumococcal Vaccine Polyvalent) and Kidney Disease



# Pneumovax® 23 (Pneumococcal Vaccine Polyvalent) and Kidney Disease

### What is Pneumovax® 23?

- Pneumovax® 23 is a vaccine that protects against infections caused by Streptococcus pneumoniae bacteria. It works to protect against infections caused by the 23 most common types of this bacteria.
- This vaccine is safe.
- This vaccine does not contain any blood or living virus.
- The vaccine is injected with a needle, usually into the muscle in your upper arm.
- Most people only need to be vaccinated once.
   People with kidney disease are at a higher risk of infection and need a second dose after 5 years.

What are your questions? Please ask. We are here to help you.

### 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 (also 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 vaccination.
- Pneumovax® 23 is recommended for:
  - > People over the age of 65
  - > People who 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. Usually this goes away in a few hours, but it may last for 1 or 2 days.
- Pain, swelling, and redness at the injection site. Usually this goes away in a few hours, but it may last for 1 or 2 days.
- Fever (temperature above 38° C/100.4° F). This can be treated with acetaminophen (Tylenol®). If you are allergic to acetaminophen, talk with your primary health care provider (family doctor or nurse practitioner).

# Who should not get Pneumovax® 23? Do not get Pneumovax® 23 if you:

- have a fever over 39.5° C/103.1° F.
- are sick at the time of your appointment, other than with a cold.
- have had a severe (very bad) 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
  - Adults under 65 years of age with certain medical conditions (like kidney disease).
- Prevnar® 13 (pneumococcal conjugate vaccine) is for adults with high-risk medical conditions (like organ transplant, low immune system, or taking immunosuppressant medications).

**You may need both vaccines.** Talk to your primary 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<sup>®</sup> 23.

This pamphlet is just a guide. If you have questions, please talk to your health care provider. We are here to help you.

Notes:		

#### Looking for more health information?

Find this pamphlet and all our patient resources here: https://library.nshealth.ca/PatientEducation Contact your local public library for books, videos, magazines, and other resources.

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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The information is not intended to be and does not constitute health care or medical advice.

If you have any questions, please ask your health care provider.

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

