

Clarify New Guidelines for Prevnar 20 and Vaxneuvance

You'll need to know **which adults should get one of the new pneumococcal vaccines, *Prevnar 20* or 15-valent *Vaxneuvance***...and when.

These conjugate vaccines may lead to longer-lasting and better immunity than *Pneumovax 23* polysaccharide vaccine. CDC projects the new vaccines will reduce overall pneumococcal disease and healthcare costs.

This is leading to changes in pneumococcal guidelines for adults 65 and up...or 19 to 64 with risk factors (cancer, diabetes, smoking, etc).

CDC now recommends that these patients get *Prevnar 20* alone...OR *Vaxneuvance* PLUS *Pneumovax 23*, usually after 1 year...depending on risk factors and vaccine history. After that, no boosters are needed.

Explain that *Pneumovax 23* is given in addition to *Vaxneuvance* to broaden coverage. About 15% of invasive pneumococcal disease is caused by the 5 serotypes in *Prevnar 20* that aren't in *Vaxneuvance*.

Expect *Prevnar 20* or *Vaxneuvance* to cost about \$230...*Pneumovax 23* is \$120. All will be covered by Medicare Part B.

Guidelines don't prefer one strategy over another.

But lean toward *Prevnar 20* as more practical and less costly...since patients getting *Vaxneuvance* also need *Pneumovax 23*.

Consider a simplified approach.

No prior pneumococcal vaccines...give 1 dose of *Prevnar 20*.

Prior *Pneumovax 23* only...consider giving 1 dose of *Prevnar 20* after 1 year.

Prior *Prevnar 13* with or without *Pneumovax 23*...don't give *Prevnar 20* or *Vaxneuvance* yet. There aren't data on whether giving one of the new vaccines on top of *Prevnar 13* adds much benefit.

Stay tuned for guidance in these patients this year. For now, complete the prior *Pneumovax 23* schedule...such as giving *Pneumovax 23* to adults 65 and older 1 year after *Prevnar 13*.

Continue to emphasize pediatric vaccination...this also indirectly protects adults. Stick with *Prevnar 13* for kids for now. But expect pediatric approval for *Vaxneuvance* this spring...and *Prevnar 20* next year.

Give pneumococcal vaccines with other vaccines (COVID-19, etc) if needed. Data are limited, but CDC guidelines don't suggest a concern.

Bookmark our new algorithm, *Pneumococcal Vaccination in Adults*, to guide patient-specific decisions. And use our chart, *Comparison of Pneumococcal Vaccines*, for a side-by-side look at products.

Key References:

-MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep. 2022 Jan 28;71(4):109-117

-<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/acip/meetings/downloads/slides-2021-10-20-21/02-Pneumococcal-Kobayashi-508.pdf> (2-24-22)

-Clin Infect Dis. 2021 Oct 5;73(7):e1489-e1497

-Vaccine. 2021 Oct 15;39(43):6422-6436

Cite this document as follows: Article, Clarify New Guidelines for Prevnar 20 and Vaxneuvance, Pharmacist's Letter, March 2022

The content of this article is provided for educational and informational purposes only, and is not a substitute for the advice, opinion or diagnosis of a trained medical professional. If your organization is interested in an enterprise subscription, email sales@trchealthcare.com.

© 2022 Therapeutic Research Center (TRC). TRC and Pharmacist's Letter and the associated logo(s) are trademarks of Therapeutic Research Center. All Rights Reserved. | 3120 W. March Lane, Stockton, CA, 95219 | (209) 472-2240

-Medication pricing by Elsevier, accessed Feb 2022
Pharmacist's Letter. March 2022, No. 380301

Cite this document as follows: Article, Clarify New Guidelines for Pevnar 20 and Vaxneuvance, Pharmacist's Letter, March 2022

The content of this article is provided for educational and informational purposes only, and is not a substitute for the advice, opinion or diagnosis of a trained medical professional. If your organization is interested in an enterprise subscription, email sales@trchealthcare.com.

© 2022 Therapeutic Research Center (TRC). TRC and Pharmacist's Letter and the associated logo(s) are trademarks of Therapeutic Research Center. All Rights Reserved. | 3120 W. March Lane, Stockton, CA, 95219 | (209) 472-2240