



# What You Need to Know About the Pneumonia Vaccine

Use this resource during huddles to increase staff knowledge of pneumonia and the vaccine. It provides facts and questions to facilitate a group discussion to increase the number of patients receiving a pneumonia vaccine.

## Important Facts

- There are two kinds of pneumococcal vaccines available. Encourage patients to discuss their option with the healthcare team.
  1. Pneumococcal conjugate vaccines (PCV13, PCV15, or PCV20)
  2. Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Vaccine (PPSV23)
- These vaccines protect against many, but not all types of pneumococcal bacteria. Therefore, there is still a chance someone can develop pneumococcal disease after vaccination.<sup>1</sup>
- Pneumococcal vaccines are safe, but side effects can occur. Common side effects may include headache, fever, muscle aches, and redness and tenderness at the injection site. These symptoms are usually mild and only last 2–3 days.
- Pneumococcal disease is an infection caused by bacteria and can be very serious. There are 150,000 pneumococcal-related hospitalizations each year in the US. The bacteria can lead to pneumonia, meningitis, and sepsis (a blood infection).<sup>2</sup>
- Pneumonia in patients with chronic kidney disease is associated with increased hospitalization, cardiovascular events, and death.<sup>3</sup>
- Here are some steps that patients can do to reduce the risk of getting pneumonia:
  - Get vaccinated (flu and pneumonia)
  - Do not smoke
  - Wash your hands
  - Maintain good health—healthy diet, rest, and regular exercise

## Facilitate Communication

- Discuss with your team how they might improve patient communication about the importance of the pneumococcal vaccination.
- Ask yourself “How might we ensure all eligible patients are vaccinated?”

## Resources

- [Get the Facts About the Flu Vaccine](#)
- [Pneumococcal Vaccination: What Everyone Should Know](#)

<sup>1</sup> Pneumococcal Vaccination, [www.cdc.gov/pneumococcal/vaccination.html](http://www.cdc.gov/pneumococcal/vaccination.html)

<sup>2</sup> Fast Facts You Need to Know about Pneumococcal Disease, [www.cdc.gov/pneumococcal/about/facts.html](http://www.cdc.gov/pneumococcal/about/facts.html)

<sup>3</sup> Risk of Pneumonia Among Patients with Chronic Kidney Disease in Outpatient and Inpatient Settings, [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4602797/](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4602797/)