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## Standing Orders for Administering Pneumococcal Vaccine to Adults

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**Purpose:** To reduce morbidity and mortality from pneumococcal disease by vaccinating all patients who meet the criteria established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.

**Policy:** Under these standing orders, eligible nurses may vaccinate patients who meet the criteria below.

### Procedure

1. Identify adults in need of vaccination with pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPV) based on the following criteria:
  - a. Age 65 years or older with no or unknown history of prior receipt of PPV
  - b. Age 18–64 years with no or unknown history of prior receipt of PPV and any of the following conditions:
    - i. chronic cardiovascular disease (e.g., congestive heart failure, cardiomyopathies)
    - ii. chronic pulmonary disease (e.g., emphysema or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease [not asthma])
    - iii. diabetes mellitus, alcoholism, chronic liver disease (cirrhosis), or cerebrospinal fluid leaks
    - iv. functional or anatomic asplenia (e.g., sickle cell disease, splenectomy)
    - v. immunosuppressive conditions (e.g., HIV infection, leukemia, congenital immunodeficiency, Hodgkin's disease, lymphoma, multiple myeloma, generalized malignancy)
    - vi. immunosuppressive chemotherapy (e.g., alkylating agents, antimetabolites, long-term systemic corticosteroids)
    - vii. organ or bone marrow transplantation
    - viii. chronic renal failure or nephrotic syndrome
    - ix. candidate for or recipient of cochlear implant
2. Identify adults in need of a second and final dose of PPV if five or more years have elapsed since the previous vaccination and the patient is:
  - a. Age 65 years or older and received prior PPV vaccination when less than age 65 years
  - b. At highest risk for serious pneumococcal infection and/or likely to have a rapid decline in pneumococcal antibody levels (i.e., categories iv.-viii. above)
3. Screen all patients for contraindications and precautions to PPV vaccine.
  - a. **Contraindications:** a history of a serious reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) after a previous dose of PPV or to a vaccine component. For a list of vaccine components, go to [www.cdc.gov/nip/publications/pink/appendices/a/excipient.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nip/publications/pink/appendices/a/excipient.pdf)
  - b. **Precautions:** a moderate or severe acute illness with or without fever
4. Provide all patients with a copy of the most current federal Vaccine Information Statement (VIS). Although not required by federal law, it is prudent to document in the patient's medical record or office log, the publication date of the VIS and the date it was given to the patient. Provide non-English speaking patients with a copy of the VIS in their native language, if available. These can be found at [www.immunize.org/vis](http://www.immunize.org/vis)
5. Administer 0.5 mL PPV vaccine either IM (22–25g, 1–2" needle) or SC (23–25g, 5/8–3/4" needle).
6. Document each patient's vaccine administration information and follow up in the following places:
  - a. **Medical chart:** Record the date the vaccine was administered, the manufacturer and lot number, the vaccination site and route, and the name and title of the person administering the vaccine. If vaccine was not given, record the reason(s) for non-receipt of the vaccine (e.g., medical contraindication, patient refusal).
  - b. **Personal immunization record card:** Record the date of vaccination and the name/location of the administering clinic.
7. Be prepared for management of a medical emergency related to the administration of vaccine by having a written emergency medical protocol available, as well as equipment and medications.
8. Report all adverse reactions to PPV to the federal Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) at [www.vaers.org](http://www.vaers.org) or by calling (800) 822-7967. VAERS report forms are available at [www.vaers.org](http://www.vaers.org)

This policy and procedure shall remain in effect for all patients of the \_\_\_\_\_ clinic until rescinded or until \_\_\_\_\_ (date).

Medical Director's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Effective date: \_\_\_\_\_