

MEMORANDUM

TO: ALL IMMUNISATION PROVIDERS

FROM: HEAD IMMUNISATION

DATE: 30 DECEMBER 2011 **TRIM REF NO:** DF 2011/3616

RE: **NEW ADVICE** – REVACCINATION WITH PNEUMOVAX 23[®]

In April 2011 you were advised to withhold the administration of all 2nd and subsequent doses of Pneumovax 23[®] for all adults.

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) and Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) have completed their investigation into the adverse events that resulted in the cessation of revaccination with this vaccine.

The findings resulted in little change to what the previous schedule was – with the only alteration being for non-Indigenous adults ≥65 years **without** any chronic medical conditions or **who are not** tobacco smokers. This is the only group where a 2nd or further dose of Pneumovax23[®] is still not recommended.

For your quick reference the table below indicates the new revaccination guidelines for people ≥15 years of age.

Primary dose of Pneumovax23 [®] (Dose 1)	First revaccination with Pneumovax23 [®] (Dose 2)	Second revaccination with Pneumovax23 [®] (Dose 3)
Non-Indigenous adults ≥65 years without any chronic medical conditions or who are not tobacco smokers	NO*	NO
Non-Indigenous adults ≥65 years with chronic medical conditions or who are tobacco smokers	5 years after Dose 1	NO
Non-Indigenous adults <65 years with chronic medical conditions or who are tobacco smokers	5 years after Dose 1	Either 5 years after the 2nd dose or at 65 years of age whichever is later
Indigenous adults ≥50 years	5 years after Dose 1	No
Indigenous adults <50 years with underlying chronic medical conditions or who are smokers	5 years after Dose 1	Either 5 years after the 2nd dose or at 50 yrs of age whichever is later
Asplenic individuals	5 years after Dose 1	Either 5 years after the 2nd dose or at 65 yrs of age (if non-Indigenous) or at 50 years of age (if Indigenous) whichever is later

* NEW information . ATAGI had previously recommended revaccination in this group.

The updated list of risk factors predisposing adults and adolescents to invasive pneumococcal disease(IPD) are :

UNDERLYING CHRONIC MEDICAL CONDITIONS THAT PREDISPOSE TO IPD	
Asplenia (either functional or anatomical) Includes sickle cell disease	Where possible the vaccine should be given 14 days before splenectomy
Conditions associated with impaired immunity	HIV infection before the development of AIDS Acute nephrotic syndrome Multiple myeloma Lymphoma Hodgkins Disease Organ transplantation
Chronic illnesses	Chronic cardiac, renal or pulmonary disease Diabetes Alcohol related problems
CSF leaks	
Tobacco smokers	

To read the complete outcomes of the investigation and updated advice for the use of Pneumovax23[®] in adults please refer to : [Immunise - Immunise Australia Program](#) or your regional Centre for Disease Control