

1. There are changes to the timing and type of pneumococcal vaccine (Prevenar 13 and Pneumovax 23) for some at risk groups including older people.
2. The single dose of Pneumovax 23 previously provided at 65 years of age has been moved to 70 years of age and has been replaced with Prevenar 13.
3. The number of doses of Pneumovax 23 that people receive in a lifetime is now two.

NATIONAL IMMUNISATION PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PNEUMOCOCCAL

Non-Aboriginal adults aged ≥ 70 years without an at-risk condition

- Now recommended and funded to receive a single dose of Prevenar 13 ≥ 70 years of age (the single dose of Pneumovax 23 at 65 years is no longer recommended or funded). This is an ongoing program with no time limited catch up.
- Those already 70 years of age or older on 1 July 2020 are eligible for a single funded dose of Prevenar 13 which can be given opportunistically at a suitable clinical encounter. This vaccine is not needed every year. It is a one-off dose.
- If someone has received a Pneumovax 23 in the last 12 months allow 12 months before Prevenar 13.

Aboriginal people ≥ 50 years without additional risk factors

- Now recommended to receive:
 - A dose of Prevenar 13 ≥ 50 years
 - 2-12 months later: a dose of Pneumovax 23
 - At least 5 years later: another dose of Pneumovax 23.
- If someone has previously received a dose of Pneumovax 23, wait 12 months before Prevenar 13.
- Give an additional dose of Pneumovax 23: 12 months after Prevenar 13 or 5 years after the previous dose of Pneumovax 23 – whichever is later.
- The number of doses of Pneumovax 23 required should be calculated with consideration that Pneumovax 23 is now limited to 2 lifetime doses.

Children and adults diagnosed with an at-risk condition > 12 months of age

- People diagnosed with an at-risk condition are recommended to receive:
 - Prevenar 13: at diagnosis
 - Pneumovax 23: 2–12 months later or ≥ 4 years whichever is later
 - Pneumovax 23: at least 5 years later.

Children aged ≤ 12 months

- Additional information is available in the online [Australian Immunisation Handbook](#).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- The number of lifetime doses of Pneumovax 23 that any individual should receive has been reduced from three to two doses with doses already received counted towards the lifetime doses.
- The list of conditions associated with an increased risk of invasive pneumococcal disease has been combined into one list i.e. there is no longer a category A and category B list. The vaccine is recommended for a people with certain at-risk condition but is only funded under the National Immunisation Program for people with specified conditions. Further information can be found on the [Australian Department of Health webpage](#).
- Prevenar 13 can be administered at the same time as Zostavax, these are usually given in separate arms.
- Refer to the online [Australian Immunisation Handbook](#) for additional information.
- Additional information regarding the changes is available from:
<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/schedule-changes.aspx>
- The vaccine order form has been updated to reflect these changes and is available from:
<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/vaccine-order-forms.aspx>
- Contact your local public health unit on **1300 066 055** for any questions.