

Pneumococcal Polysaccharide 23 –Valent Vaccine (Pneumo-P 23) added to the list of provincially funded vaccines for pharmacists

Effective **January 1, 2019**, the Compensation Plan for Pharmacy Services will be expanded for the Assessment for the Administration of a Publicly Funded Vaccine to include routine dose Pneumococcal polysaccharide 23 (Pneumococcal-P 23) vaccine to eligible Albertans 65 years of age and older.

Streptococcus pneumonia infections are a major cause of illness and death worldwide. Invasive pneumococcal disease is most common in the elderly and persons at high risk due to underlying medical conditions or lifestyle factors. Pneumococcal vaccine is recommended to prevent pneumococcal disease.

Eligibility criteria

Albertans 65 years of age and older are eligible for the administration of routine dose of Pneumococcal-P 23. To determine a client's eligibility, a thorough review of the patient's immunization history should occur. Netcare is considered the primary source for immunization information, supplemented by a client's personal immunization record (hard copy). If confirmation of prior immunization for pneumococcal vaccine cannot be determined, the vaccine should still be offered to the client to ensure a documented immunization can be completed.

Albertans 65 years of age and older who have the any of the following medical conditions are **NOT ELIGIBLE***:

- Asplenia or hyposplenism.
- Chronic cerebral spinal fluid (CSF) leak.
- Chronic neurologic conditions that may impair clearance of oral secretions.
- Nephrotic syndrome.
- Cochlear implants (candidates and recipients).
- Congenital immune deficiencies.
- Hematopoietic stem cell transplant (HSCT) recipients.
- Hepatic cirrhosis.
- HIV infection.
- Immunosuppressive therapy.
- Malignant neoplasms including leukemia and lymphoma.
- Sickle cell disease and other hemoglobinopathies.
- Solid organ or islet transplant (SOT) candidates and recipients.

*Please refer Albertans with the above conditions to Alberta Health Services for a review of immunization history as they may be eligible for other vaccines. Please refer to the Pneumococcal – P 23 decision Tree to determine client eligibility, this can be accessed at <http://www.health.alberta.ca/professionals/immunization-policy.html>.

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- Consideration for appropriate vaccine spacing between Pneumococcal-P 23 and Pneumococcal Conjugate 13 is required for any Albertan previously vaccinated with any pneumococcal vaccine.

Eligible product

Pneumovax-23 25 mcg/Vial Injection (DIN 00431648), manufactured by Merck Canada Inc. is the eligible product to be submitted under the Alberta Public Health Activities Program (ABPHAP) using **PIN 05666671**.

Eligible product is available through your pharmacy wholesale distributor and is distinguished from vaccine used for private coverage through listing at no charge to the pharmacy.

As a reminder, a dispensing fee cannot be claimed, however the Fee for the Assessment for the Administration of a Publicly Funded Vaccine is eligible.

- The maximum ordering threshold per order is 10 doses.
- This vaccine may be provided year round.

Claims processes

Pharmacists are required to submit Pneumococcal-P 23 vaccination service claims within three business days of administering the vaccine to ensure timely recording of the immunization event into Netcare.

A charge of up to \$13 per injectable vaccination service for the Assessment for the Administration of a Publicly Funded Vaccine may be claimed as per the Compensation Plan for Pharmacy Services.

Netcare should be accessed to validate immunization history, PHNs and demographic information. The individual's personal health number (PHN) will be used to confirm eligibility. Incorrect submission of the client's eligibility will result in claim rejections with the response code of **C8—No record of this beneficiary**. Claims for individuals less than the age of 65 will reject with response code of **CD—Patient not entitled for drug claimed**.

All claims must be submitted electronically through the Alberta Blue Cross PRIDE RT claims adjudication system with the following data elements:

- Carrier code 16 (as the third-party plan).
- Group number for all transactions must be 23464, Section 000.
- Pharmacy license number.
- Pharmacist identification number.
- Client number: client's PHN as the client number (clients who do not have a PHN number or inactive number should be directed to AHS Public Health clinic for vaccine administration).
- Client's full name: first and last name.
- Client's date of birth.
- Client's gender.
- Relationship code: should your software require you to enter a relationship code, zero (0) must be used as the default.
- Prescriber reference ID number.
- Service date.
- PIN 05666671.
- Quantity.

Only immunization services provided by ACP injection-authorized pharmacists are eligible for this provincially-funded program compensation. Pharmacists may not delegate the administration of provincially-funded vaccines to other health-care professionals (paid or volunteer).

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The Alberta Pharmacists' Association is developing an education program which should be available in December 2018. This program will support pharmacists in understanding Pneumococcal-P 23. The education program should be completed prior to administering the vaccination and will be available online at <https://www.rxa.ca/professional-development/online-courses.aspx>

When you have questions:

For assistance with benefit or claim inquiries, please contact an Alberta Blue Cross Pharmacy Services Provider Relations contact centre representative at:

780-498-8370 (Edmonton and area) • **403-294-4041** (Calgary and area) • **1-800-361-9632** (toll free)

FAX 780-498-8406 (Edmonton and area) • **FAX 1-877-305-9911** (toll free)

Alberta Blue Cross offers online access to current Pharmacy Benefits and supplemental claiming information to assist with the submission of your direct bill drug claims. Visit ab.bluecross.ca/providers/pharmacy-home.php



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