



# Pneumococcal Conjugate (Pneu-13) - Prevnar®13

The vaccine protects against infection caused by 13 types of the pneumococcus bacteria, *Streptococcus pneumoniae*.

## Who should get this vaccine? <sup>1</sup>

- Routinely given to all infants at 2, 4 and 12 months of age.
- This vaccine is only available publicly funded (free) for children up to 5 years of age and those 50 years of age and older in the following high risk groups:
- Anyone who has had a hematopoietic stem cell transplant.
- Anyone with HIV
- Sickle cell.
- Anyone without a spleen or whose spleen is not working well.
- Congenital immunodeficiencies.
- Long term use of immunosuppressants.
- Malignant growths (tumours).
- Solid organ or islet transplant.
- This vaccine may be recommended for others based on risk factors, however they would have to purchase this vaccine.

## How well does this vaccine work? <sup>1</sup>

- 79-95% of healthy children between the ages of 2-59 months are protected with this vaccine.

## Is there an alternative to this vaccine?

At this time there are no other ways to prevent this disease.

Hand washing and covering the mouth and nose while coughing/sneezing can help reduce the spread of disease.

## Is this vaccine safe?

The risk of a serious reaction or side effect from this vaccine is much less than the risk of pneumococcal disease. If you experience any side effect worse than what is listed below, please seek medical advice and notify the health unit.

## Common side effects of this vaccine <sup>1</sup>

- Pain where needle was given.
- Redness.
- Swelling.
- Irritability
- Decreased appetite
- Drowsiness
- Low grade fever
- Fatigue
- Headache

**Less common:**

- Seizures (febrile or not)

**Rare:**

- Arthus-like reaction (severe pain, swelling, hard lump where needle was given, edema, haemorrhage and occasionally dead tissue).

**Who should not receive this vaccine?**

- Anyone with an allergy to any of the vaccine components or who has had an allergic or anaphylactic reaction to this vaccine.
- Anyone who has received Pneumovax®23 in the last year

**What is in this vaccine? <sup>2,3</sup>**

<b>Pneumovax®23</b>	<b>Also found in...</b>
Sodium chloride	Table salt
Aluminium	Breast milk, infant formula
Diphtheria toxoid	Other vaccines
Polysorbate 80	Ice cream
Succinic acid	Cosmetics, food additive

**What else do I need to know?**

It is important for you to keep a current record of your child's vaccines. When your child begins school you will be asked to provide a copy of this record to the school, who will forward it onto the health unit.

The health unit is required by law to keep immunization records for all children attending a day nursery or school. Health care providers do not share immunization records with the health unit. This is the parent's responsibility. You can share/update your child's record in the following ways:

Use the secure on-line form on our website – [www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/immsonline](http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/immsonline)

Fax a copy to 705-721-1495

Mail a copy to: VPD Program, Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, 15 Sperling Drive, Barrie, ON, L4M 6K9.

Call Your Health Connection at 705-721-7520.

**References:**

Canadian Immunization Guide. Part 4-Active Vaccines: Pneumococcal Vaccine. Ottawa: Public Health Agency of Canada; 2015.

Canadian Immunization Guide. Part 1-Key Immunization Information 2013. Table 1: Types and contents of vaccines available for use in Canada. Ottawa: Public Health Agency of Canada; 2015.

Moore, D. Your Child's Best Shot (4<sup>th</sup> ed.). Canadian Paediatric Society, 2015