

Pneumococcal Vaccine Program – Product Transition: Pneu-C-15 for Routine Childhood Program Pneu-C-20 for 65+ and High-Risk Program

Attention: Physicians, Hospitals, Infection Control Practitioners, Community Health Centres, Walk-In Urgent Care Clinic, Nurse Practitioner, Ontario Health, Ontario Health Teams, Midwives, Family Health Team, Indigenous Healthcare & Community, Long-Term Care Homes, Retirement Homes, Corrections

Date: July 8, 2024

Ontario’s publicly funded pneumococcal vaccine program is transitioning to the following pneumococcal vaccines effective July 29th, 2024:

- Pneumococcal 15-valent conjugate (Pneu-C-15) - Vaxneuvance® manufactured by Merck Canada Inc.
 - Will be replacing Pneu-C-13 for routine immunization of low-risk infants at 2, 4, & 12 months.
 - Any infants who have started their series with Pneu-C-13 will complete with Pneu-C-15.
 - Will also be used in catch up schedules for low-risk children up to age 5 as eligible.
- Pneumococcal 20-valent conjugate (Pneu-C-20) - Prevnar® 20 manufactured by Pfizer Canada
 - Will be replacing Pneu-P-23 for routine immunization of those 65 and older.
 - Will be replacing Pneu-P-23 and Pneu-C-13 for anyone 6 weeks and older who is at high-risk for invasive pneumococcal disease (IPD).
 - Pneu-P-23 vaccine will no longer be available in Ontario’s publicly funded vaccine program.

These two new pneumococcal conjugate vaccines will provide broader protection against invasive pneumococcal disease (IPD) compared to Pneu-C-13 and longer-term protection than Pneu-P-23, which are the two vaccines currently used in the Ontario program.

The current transition for the pneumococcal program will focus on those who have not completed or have not received all eligible publicly funded pneumococcal vaccine(s) (i.e., Pneu-P-23 and/or Pneu-C-13). **Therefore, anyone who has already received the pneumococcal vaccine(s) that they are currently eligible for (i.e., anyone who is 65+ or high risk who has already received Pneu-P-23 and/or Pneu-C-13) is considered up to date and is not to receive an additional dose of Pneu-C-20.** Currently, there are no recommendations for a booster dose of Pneu-C-20 vaccine.

Vaccine Program	Eligible Age Group	Previous Vaccine	Now Eligible for
Routine	6 weeks through 4 years	Pneu-C-13	Pneu-C-15
Routine	≥65 years of age	Pneu-P-23	Pneu-C-20
High-Risk*	≥6 weeks of age and older	Pneu-P-23 & Pneu-C-13	Pneu-C-20

***The following groups are high-risk for invasive pneumococcal disease (IPD)**

1. Asplenia (functional or anatomic), splenic dysfunction.
2. Congenital (primary) immunodeficiencies involving any part of the immune system, including B-lymphocyte (humoral) immunity, T-lymphocyte (cell) mediated immunity, complement system (properdin, or factor D deficiencies), or phagocytic functions.
3. HIV infection.
4. Immunocompromising therapy including use of long-term systemic corticosteroid, chemotherapy, radiation therapy, post-organ transplant therapy, certain anti-rheumatic drugs, and other immunosuppressive therapy.
5. Malignant neoplasms, including leukemia and lymphoma.
6. Sickle-cell disease and other sickle cell hemoglobinopathies.
7. Solid organ or islet cell transplant (recipient).
8. Hepatic cirrhosis due to any cause.
9. Chronic renal disease, including nephrotic syndrome.
10. Chronic cardiac disease.
11. Chronic liver disease, including hepatitis B and C.
12. Chronic respiratory disease, excluding asthma, except those treated with high-dose corticosteroid therapy.
13. Chronic neurologic conditions that may impair clearance of oral secretions.
14. Diabetes mellitus.
15. Cochlear implant recipients (pre/post implant).
16. Chronic cerebral spinal fluid leak.
17. Residents of nursing homes, homes for the aged and chronic care facilities or wards.
18. Hematopoietic stem cell transplant (HSCT) (recipient).

Key Vaccine Information

Vaccine	Pneumococcal Conjugate 15-valent	Pneumococcal Conjugate 20-valent
Vaccine abbreviation	Pneu-C-15	Pneu-C-20
Vaccine name	Vaxneuvance	Prevnar 20
Manufacturer	Merck	Pfizer
Protects against	IPD	IPD
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> serotypes	1, 3, 4, 5, 6A, 6B, 7F, 9V, 14, 18C, 19A, 19F, 22F, 23F and 33F	1, 3, 4, 5, 6A, 6B, 7F, 8, 9V, 10A, 11A, 12F, 14, 15B, 18C, 19A, 19F, 22F, 23F, and 33F
Dosage	0.5 mL	0.5 mL
Route of administration	Intramuscular Injection (IM)	Intramuscular Injection (IM)
Package format	1 prefilled syringe 10 prefilled syringes	10 prefilled syringes
Package size (cm) L x W x H	1 syringe: 4.9 x 3.2 x 13.3 10 syringes: 11.4 x 5.2 x 12.4	12.45 x 9.91 x 5.33

Vaccine Ordering

Orders placed by 3pm on Wed July 17th will be ready for pick up Wed July 24th but note the vaccine is not to be administered until after the July 29th launch date.

Orders placed by 3pm on Wed July 24th will be ready for pick up Wed July 31st.

Note: With the launch of our new online vaccine order form on July 18th, the online form will only have Pneu-C-15 & Pneu-C 20. For those wanting to order the week prior to the launch of our new online order form (July 10-17th for pick up July 24th), we have posted updated order forms [on our website](#).

Once facilities receive Pneu-C-15 and Pneu-C20, any remaining Pneu-P-23 or Pneu-C-13 vaccine that is left in their inventory is to be returned to the health unit. This vaccine does not need to remain under cold chain and needs to be accompanied by a [Vaccine Return form](#) as usual.

For more information about the program transition, the vaccines, or eligibility criteria refer to the following:

- [Ministry of Health: Qs & As for Health Care Providers: Pneumococcal Vaccine Transition](#)
- [Ministry of Health: Health Care Provider Fact Sheet: Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccines for Children Aged 6 Weeks to 4 Years](#)
- [Ministry of Health: Health Care Provider Fact Sheet: Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine for Individuals at High Risk for Invasive Pneumococcal Disease](#)
- [Ministry of Health: Health Care Provider Fact Sheet: Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine for Individuals Aged 65 Years and Older](#)