

# Pevnar® 20 (Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine) and Kidney Disease

**Notes:**

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This pamphlet is for educational purposes only. It is not intended to replace the advice or professional judgment of a health care provider. The information may not apply to all situations. If you have any questions, please ask your health care provider.

Find this pamphlet and all our patient resources here:  
<https://library.nshealth.ca/Patients-Guides>

Connect with a registered nurse in Nova Scotia any time:  
Call 811 or visit: <https://811.novascotia.ca>

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*Designed by:* Nova Scotia Health Library Services

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To be reviewed August 2027 or sooner, if needed.



**If you have already received 2 doses of Pneumovax® 23:**

- › You do not need Prevnar® 20.

**If you have already received 1 dose of Pneumovax® 23 and 1 dose of Prevnar® 13:**

- › You do not need Prevnar® 20.

**If you have had only 1 dose of Pneumovax® 23 (of the 2 doses given 5 years apart):**

- › You are eligible for Prevnar® 20 (if it has been at least 1 year since you received Pneumovax® 23).

**If you have had pneumococcal vaccines in the past and you are not sure if you need Prevnar® 20:**

- › Ask a member of your health care team.

This pamphlet is just a guide. If you have questions, please talk to your health care provider. We are here to help you.

## Who should not get Prevnar® 20?

### Do not get Prevnar® 20 if you:

- › have a fever over 39.5 °C or 103.1 °F.
- › are sick at the time of your appointment, other than with a cold.
- › have had a severe (very bad) allergic reaction to a previous dose of the vaccine, to any part of the vaccine, or to any diphtheria toxoid-containing vaccine.

### Note: Nova Scotia Health used to use

#### 2 other types of pneumococcal vaccines:

- Prevnar® 13 (pneumococcal conjugate vaccine) for adults with high-risk medical conditions (like organ transplant, low immune system, or taking immunosuppressant medications)
- Pneumovax® 23 (pneumococcal vaccine polyvalent) for:
  - › adults over 65 years of age.
  - › adults under 65 years of age with certain medical conditions (like kidney disease).

Prevnar® 20 replaces Pneumovax® 23.

## Prevnar® 20 and Kidney Disease

### What is Prevnar® 20?

- Prevnar® 20 is a vaccine that protects against infections caused by *Streptococcus pneumoniae* bacteria.
  - › It helps to protect against infections caused by the 20 most common types of this bacteria.
- This vaccine is safe.
- This vaccine does not have any blood or a living virus in it.
- The vaccine is injected with a needle (usually into your upper arm muscle).
- Adults only need to be vaccinated once.

### What are your questions?

Please ask a member of your health care team. We are here to help you.

## What is *Streptococcus pneumoniae*?

- *Streptococcus pneumoniae* is a type of bacteria.
- Many people carry it in the back of their throat or nose.
- The bacteria spreads from person to person by coughing or sneezing.
- This bacteria can cause many types of infections. **Some of these infections can be life-threatening.**
- Infections commonly caused by *Streptococcus pneumoniae* include:
  - › **Pneumonia:** an infection in the lungs (also called a chest infection)
  - › **Meningitis:** an infection of the lining around the brain
  - › **Bacteremia:** an infection of the blood and organs
  - › **Sinusitis:** a sinus infection
  - › **Otitis media:** a middle ear infection

## Why do I need to get vaccinated?

- Most infections caused by *Streptococcus pneumoniae* can be prevented with vaccination.
- Prevnar® 20 is recommended for:
  - › People over the age of 65
  - › People who live in long-term care facilities
  - › People who have had an organ transplant
  - › People with chronic kidney disease (CKD) and certain other medical conditions

## What are the possible side effects of Prevnar® 20?

Side effects may include:

- Burning and/or stinging at the injection site at the time of injection. This often goes away in a few hours, but it may last for 1 or 2 days.
- Pain, swelling, and redness at the injection site. This often goes away in a few hours, but it may last for 1 or 2 days.
- Fever (temperature above 38 °C or 100.4 °F). This can be treated with acetaminophen (Tylenol®). If you are allergic to acetaminophen, talk with your primary health care provider (family doctor or nurse practitioner).