

## Pneumococcal Polysaccharide 23-Valent Immunization Program Implementation - January 1, 2019

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As of January 1, 2019, pharmacists will be able to provide routine Pneumococcal Polysaccharide 23 – Valent vaccine (Pneumo-P 23) to eligible adults 65 years of age and older.

### Re: **Pneumococcal Polysaccharide 23 –Valent Vaccine: Pneumovax® 23 Pharmacy Enhanced Immunization Services Program**

#### **Eligibility Criteria:**

**65 years of age and older** who are eligible\* and **do not have** the following medical conditions:

- Asplenia/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, lymphoma
- Sickle cell disease and other hemoglobinopathies
- Solid organ or islet transplant (SOT) candidates and recipients

\*Please refer to the **Pneumococcal-P 23 Decision Tree for Pharmacists** to determine client eligibility.

#### **AHS Public Health Referral:**

Individuals who have any of the medical conditions listed above should be referred to Alberta Health Services Public Health for immunization assessment prior to receiving Pneumococcal-P 23 vaccine as they may require Pneumococcal Conjugate 13 and other vaccines.

- Consideration for appropriate vaccine spacing between Pneumococcal-P 23 and Pneumococcal Conjugate 13 is required.

#### **Immunization Record Review:**

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.

#### **Reporting Immunization Events and Alberta Blue Cross Billing:**

Pharmacists must submit claims to Alberta Blue Cross within three business days in order to have timely recording of the immunization event in Netcare and to assist Alberta Health with vaccine supply monitoring. Please refer to the Alberta Blue Cross Benefact for more information regarding the submission of claims.

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### **Vaccine Supply and Distribution:**

- Pneumococcal- P 23 vaccine will be distributed to pharmacies through Pharmacy Wholesale Distributors.
- Distribution amounts are based on vaccine availability.
- Maximum ordering threshold for Pneumo-P 23 per order is 1 unit (10 doses).

### **Cold Chain Excursions and Adverse Event Following Immunization (AEFI):**

The reporting process for cold chain breaks and AEFIs is the same as reporting influenza vaccine. The pharmacy cold chain reporting form will include the Pneumo-P 23 vaccine.

If you have any questions, please contact [health.imm@gov.ab.ca](mailto:health.imm@gov.ab.ca).