Important Information about SMOKING and Pneumococcal Disease

Talk to Your Patients about Protecting Themselves from this Dangerous Infection

Saving Lives: Integrating Vaccines for Adults Into Routine Care

- Cigarette smoking is the strongest independent risk factor for invasive pneumococcal disease in immunocompetent adults younger than age 65.
- About half of otherwise healthy adults younger than age 65 who develop severe pneumococcal disease are smokers.
- Pneumococcal disease causes serious illnesses like meningitis, bacteremia, and pneumonia.
- Invasive pneumococcal disease is particularly deadly. Pneumococcal bacteremia and meningitis kill 15 to 20 percent and 16 to 37 percent of those infected, respectively.
- Pneumococcal disease survivors may suffer hearing loss, seizures, blindness, or paralysis.
- Pneumococcal vaccination is recommended for all adults who smoke. Medicare and most private insurance companies pay for vaccination for patients who need it.

Adult SMOKERS are among those who need pneumococcal vaccination

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPSV23) for adults who smoke and have other risk factors:

- Anyone age 65 and older
- Adults age 19-64 with any of the following conditions: asthma**,** diabetes, lung, heart, or liver disease, or alcoholism
- Cigarette smokers
- Residents of long-term care facilities

Most of these adults need only one vaccination. Patients who smoke and have no additional risk factor require a second dose of vaccine at age 65 if it's been five years since their first dose.

CDC also recommends pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV13) in addition to PPSV23 for the following adults:

- Immunocompromising conditions (HIV/AIDS, lymphoma or leukemia, chronic kidney disease) or receiving immunosuppressive treatment (steroids, radiation therapy, etc.)
- Damaged or no spleen
- Cochlear implants or cerebro-spinal fluid leaks

The number and timing of doses for these adults varies. For more information, refer to the Pneumococcal Vaccination Guide for Adults or visit: www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/pneumo/.

For more information and resources to educate patients about pneumococcal disease, visit: Adultvaccination.org/pneumotools.

National Foundation for Infectious Diseases

This document is supported by an unrestricted educational grant from Pfizer Inc. The National Foundation for Infectious Diseases' (NFID) policies prohibit funders from controlling program content. To view NFID's policy for unrestricted educational grants, visit www.nfid.org/info/grantspolicy.pdf.

December 2012