

PNEUMOCOCCAL PRODUCT SWITCH — JULY 1, 2024

Pneumococcal 20-valent Conjugate Vaccine (Pneu-C20): Prennar 20™ in Pharmacy

Beginning **July 1, 2024**, Pneumococcal 20-valent Conjugate Vaccine or Prennar 20™ (Pneu-C20) will be used in the prevention of invasive pneumococcal disease (IPD) for eligible Albertans **18 years of age and older** as part of Alberta's provincially funded immunization program offered through pharmacies. The Pneumococcal Polysaccharide 23-valent vaccine (Pneumo-P) will no longer be available as part of the Alberta Immunization Program, and **all administration of this product must stop on June 30, 2024**. There is also a new policy for the use and eligibility of provincially funded Pneu-C20. **It is critical to read the *Pneumococcal 20-valent Conjugate Vaccine (Pneu-C20): Prennar 20™ in Pharmacy* policy** and understand the decision tree in order to guide and counsel your patients appropriately. Please find the policy on the AIP webpage at <https://shorturl.at/HNgG3>.

For more detailed policy information regarding the use of the Pneu-C20 vaccine in Alberta, refer to *Pneumococcal Vaccine, 20-valent Conjugate* at <https://shorturl.at/uajrU>.

Please see the decision tree (**Appendix A**) in the policy to establish Pneu-C20 eligibility criteria for patients who are at an increased risk for IPD.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Please refer to the decision tree within the policy for assistance

1. Populations at increased risk for IPD who are **18 years of age and older** (refer to Table 1 in the Pneu-C20 policy) are eligible for one dose of Pneu-C20 **if they have not previously received pneumococcal vaccine dose(s)**, including a dose of Pneu-C20.
 - If a patient is deemed eligible for Pneu-C20, the vaccine can be offered. It would be prudent to also refer the patient to Alberta Health Services (AHS) as they may require additional provincially funded vaccines not available at pharmacies.
 - Patients who are Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplants (HSCT) recipients or Solid Organ Transplant (SOT) recipients **should not** be provided Pneu-C20 at a pharmacy, but instead be referred to AHS Public Health for their vaccine and a thorough immunization assessment. It is likely that these patients will require additional vaccines that align with a schedule already established by AHS Public Health.
2. Patients **65 years of age and older** who are not included in the populations listed in Table 1 in the policy and who have not previously received a dose of Pneumo-P (at 65 years of age or older) or a previous dose of Pneu-C20.
 - Patients 65 years of age or older who have already received at least one dose of Pneumo-P vaccine dose are considered complete and not currently eligible for Pneu-C20.
 - Patients who have already received at least one dose of Pneu-C20 (regardless of their age when they received it) are considered complete and not eligible for another dose of Pneu-C20.

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PNEU-C20 VACCINE SPACING CONSIDERATIONS

Please refer to the decision tree within the policy for assistance

For those who are eligible for the Pneu-C20 vaccine:

- Pneu-C20 should be given at least one year following a Pneumo-P dose.
- Pneu-C20 should be given at least 8 weeks following Prevnar®13 (Pneu-C13) or Vaxneuvance® (Pneu-C15).

ORDERING/DISCARDING

Pharmacies can start ordering Prevnar 20™ on **June 24**. Any Pneumovax® 23 remaining in inventory after July 1, 2024, is considered withdrawn, and inventory remaining must be accounted for and reconciled in the Alberta Vaccine Inventory (AVI) management system using the following:

- **Category:** Recall
- **Reason:** Recall

Note that the wholesalers cannot accept Pneumovax® 23 vaccine returns. Pharmacies are responsible for the proper destruction of unused or expired vaccines. The cost of destruction will not be reimbursed.

PIN UPDATES

Please refer to the following table for updated Product Identification Numbers (PIN) following the introduction of Prevnar 20™. Once a claim is submitted to Alberta Blue Cross®, pharmacies will not be required to enter the dose given into Immunization Direct Submission Mechanism (IDSM).

Manufacturer	Product	PIN	Reason code	Descriptor
Pfizer	Prevnar 20™	11100050	50	Routine recommended immunization
		11100066	66	Other risk

For assistance with benefit or claim inquiries, please contact an Alberta Blue Cross Pharmacy Services Provider Relations contact centre representative at

780-498-8370 (Edmonton and area)

403-294-4041 (Calgary and area)

1-800-361-9632 (toll free)

FAX 780-498-8406 (Edmonton and area)

FAX 1-877-305-9911 (toll free)

Alberta Blue Cross offers online access to current Pharmacy Benefacts and supplemental claiming information to assist with the submission of your direct bill drug claims.

Visit ab.bluecross.ca/providers/pharmacy-home.php

