
Pneumococcal Vaccination Recall Program for Adults aged 70 years and older

By the end of 2021, approx. 1 in 5 eligible Australians aged 70-79 received an NIP-funded 13vPCV vaccination.¹

A strengthened focus on adult vaccination is needed as older adults are more than 5x likely to be hospitalised with pneumococcal pneumonia than younger adults and coverage remains suboptimal.^{1,2}

The aim of this program is to recall patients who are at greater risk of pneumococcal pneumonia due to their age and other medical risk factors to help reduce their risk of hospitalisation.²

Background

13vPCV is listed on the National Immunisation Program (NIP) for Australians aged 70+ for pneumococcal disease. It is one of two NIP-funded pneumococcal vaccines, but the only one of these recommended for this older age group.

Other pneumococcal vaccines are also available, but are not currently NIP funded. People aged 70+ should receive a single dose of 13vPCV regardless of a prior 23vPPV³

Vaccination from 70 years of age provides better protection as people move into older age groups with increasing risk of pneumococcal disease.³



PRACTICE BRIEF

How are patients identified?

The recall program is deployed via GoShare Plus, software that is integrated with CAT4 (PENCAT) and allows an authorised practice staff member to identify patients aged 70 years and over, who are eligible for the pneumococcal vaccine.

The program can be remotely activated within 24 hours, if the Practice has CAT4 software installed, as there is no additional software to download. Once deployed, you will be allocated SMS credits and your practice will be guided through the use of GoShare Plus and how to send the recall SMS bundle to eligible patients. It only takes 15 minutes of a Practice staff member's time to complete the activity.

All costs related to the GoShare Plus program and SMS bundle are covered by Pfizer Australia, manufacturer of the 13vPCV (Prevenar 13) vaccine.

What do patients receive?

Patients receive a personalised SMS from your practice asking them to make an appointment with their doctor to discuss their eligibility for a pneumococcal vaccination.

The SMS contains:

- The practice name and contact number;
- A link to information to help the patient understand what pneumococcal pneumonia is, how it can affect them; and why they may be at increased risk

More information

If you have any queries about recall activities, please do not hesitate to contact Healthily on 03 9534 7222 or goshare@healthily.com.au

References: 1. NCIRS Annual Immunisation Coverage Report Summary 2021. Accessed March 2023. Available here: <https://ncirs.org.au/reports> 2. Patel C et al. Commun Dis Intell 2022;46. 3. National Immunisation Program – Pneumococcal vaccination schedule from 1 July 2020 – Clinical advice for vaccination providers | Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care. Accessed March 2023. Available here: <https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2020/06/national-immunisation-program-pneumococcal-vaccination-schedule-from-1-july-2020-clinical-advice-for-vaccination-providers.pdf>

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