

Ministry of Health

Qs & As for Public Health Units: Pneumococcal Vaccine Transition

This document will assist public health units with the transition of the current pneumococcal conjugate 13-valent (Pneu-C-13) and pneumococcal polysaccharide 23-valent (Pneu-P-23) vaccines to the new pneumococcal conjugate 15-valent (Pneu-C-15) and 20-valent (Pneu-C-20) vaccines. **Public health units should also review the information in the Qs & As for Health Care Providers: Pneumococcal Vaccine Transition document for detailed clinical guidance.**

What is the history of the pneumococcal vaccine program in Ontario?

Pneumococcal Vaccine	Vaccine highlights	
	Date	Description
Pneu-P-23	1999	Routine adult program introduced for individuals 65 years of age and older. High risk program introduced for individuals 2 years of age and older with certain medical conditions at high risk for IPD.
Pneu-C-7	September 2003	High risk pediatric program introduced for children 6 weeks to 4 years of age at high risk for IPD.
	January 2005	Routine pediatric program introduced for all children 6 weeks to 4 years of age.
	October 2009	Continued use of Pneu-C-7 for routine pediatric program for all children 2 to 4 years of age.
Pneu-C-10	October 2009	Replaced Pneu-C-7 with Pneu-C-10 for routine pediatric program for all children 6 weeks to 1 year of age.
Pneu-C-13	November 2010	Replaced Pneu-C-7 and Pneu-C-10 with Pneu-C-13 for routine pediatric program for all children 6 weeks to 4 years of age.
	December 2014	High risk program with Pneu-C-13 introduced for individuals 50 years of age and older with certain medical conditions at high risk for IPD.

Notes:

- Pneu-P-23: Pneumococcal polysaccharide 23 valent (Pneumovax 23)
- Pneu-C-7: Pneumococcal conjugate 7-valent (Prevnar)
- Pneu-C-10: Pneumococcal conjugate 10-valent (Synflorix)
- Pneu-C-13: Pneumococcal conjugate 13-valent (Prevnar 13)

How can I order Pneu-C-15 and Pneu-C-20 vaccine?

Public health units should order vaccine through Panorama. Vaccine providers should order the vaccine through their regular vaccine supply source (i.e., public health unit or Ontario Government Pharmaceutical and Medical Supply Service (OGPMSS)).

What should I do with my Pneu-C-13 and Pneu-P-23 vaccine?

The ministry will receive credit for any unused Pneu-C-13 and Pneu-P-23. It is important to return any unused pneumococcal vaccines to OGPMSS after receiving doses of Pneu-C-15 and Pneu-C-20 vaccines.

Vaccine providers in your jurisdiction should be instructed to return their existing stock of Pneu-C-13 and Pneu-P-23 vaccines to their vaccine supply source (i.e., public health unit or OGPMSS) once they have received doses of Pneu-C-15 and Pneu-C-20 vaccines.

Please ensure that all vaccine returned by vaccine providers and the stock remaining at your public health unit is returned to OGPMSS as non-reusable vaccine (not maintained under cold chain).

When will Pneu-C-15 and Pneu-C-20 be included in the Panorama forecaster and the Publicly Funded Immunization Schedules for Ontario?

Pneu-C-15 and Pneu-C-20 will be included in the Panorama 4.4 launch. Updates for the Panorama forecaster and Publicly Funded Immunization Schedules for Ontario are currently underway and are anticipated to be released in early winter 2024.

What should be done for adverse events following immunization (AEFI)?

Under section 38 of the *Health Protection and Promotion Act, R.S.O. 1990*, physicians, nurses, pharmacists or other persons authorized to administer an immunizing agent, are required to inform the person who consents to immunization of the importance of immediately reporting any reaction that may be a reportable event. Public health units should subsequently be notified of the adverse event, then report the event to Public Health Ontario. Vaccine providers should be asked to report AEFIs units using the [Ontario AEFI Reporting Form](#).