

FACTS ABOUT THE PNEUMOCOCCAL VACCINE:

- You cannot get pneumococcal pneumonia from the vaccine.
- Some people have experienced mild side effects such as swelling and soreness at the injection site.
- Most people aged 65 and older need only one shot to protect them for a lifetime. Some people need a booster shot after five years. Talk to your doctor about what's best for you.
- If you don't remember if you have had your pneumococcal vaccine, it is recommended that you be revaccinated.

**ONE SHOT COULD
PROTECT YOU FOR
A LIFETIME.
TALK TO YOUR
DOCTOR TODAY!**



Ohio's Medicare Quality Improvement Organization
Clinically driven. Client focused. Value based.
www.ohiokepro.com 1-800-589-7337

Rock Run Center, Suite 100
5700 Lombardo Center Drive
Seven Hills, OH 44131
Medicare Beneficiary Help Line: 1.800.589.7337
www.ohiokepro.com

All material presented or referenced herein is intended for general informational purposes and is not intended to provide or replace the independent judgment of a qualified healthcare provider treating a particular patient. Ohio KePRO disclaims any representation or warranty with respect to any treatments or course of treatment based upon information provided.

Publication No. 8041-OH-047-4/2008. This material was prepared by Ohio KePRO, the Medicare Quality Improvement Organization for Ohio, under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The contents presented do not necessarily reflect CMS policy.

The Pneumonia Vaccine

**It Could
Save Your
Life!**



What is Pneumococcal Disease?

Pneumococcal disease is an infection caused by a type of bacteria. The infection kills up to 40,000* people in the United States each year.

Three severe types of pneumococcal infections are:

- Pneumonia (infection of the lungs). Each year an estimated 500,000* cases occur in the U.S.
- Bacteremia (bacteria in the blood). Each year an estimated 50,000* cases occur in the U.S.
- Meningitis (inflammation around the brain). Each year an estimated 3,000* cases occur in the U.S.

*Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



WHEN SHOULD I GET VACCINATED?

It is usually safe for most adults to receive the pneumonia vaccination at any time, but ask your doctor when you should get vaccinated.

COST

The pneumococcal vaccine is covered by Medicare Part B or your Medicare HMO. You pay nothing out of pocket!

WHO SHOULD GET THE PNEUMOCOCCAL VACCINE?

You should ask your doctor about getting the vaccine if you:

- Are 65 years of age or older
- Have a chronic illness (including diabetes)
- Have a weak immune system (including cancers, chemotherapy, renal failure)
- Have had your spleen removed

