

PNEUMOCOCCAL VACCINE

Pneumovax® and Pnu-Immune® are pneumococcal vaccines that are currently recommended for use in all adults who are older than 65 years of age and for persons who are at high risk for disease (e.g., sickle cell disease, HIV infection, or other immunocompromising conditions.) Any adult 19 through 64 years of age who is a smoker or has asthma is also encouraged to get the vaccine.

Anyone can get a pneumococcal disease, which is caused by the *Streptococcus pneumoniae* bacteria. Diseases from this bacteria are a leading cause of death in the US but are preventable with this vaccine. Pneumonia, meningitis and blood infections may be preventable if you are vaccinated.

Most pharmacies stock this vaccine and most insurance plans, including Medicare Part D, may cover most of the cost. Check with your insurance plan for exact costs to you. *No prescription is needed.*

Usually only one dose of this vaccine is needed but under some circumstances, a second dose might be needed. This depends on your age at the time of your first vaccination.

For more detailed information and a printable fact sheet, go to:

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/downloads/vis-ppv.pdf>