

MEDICAL PHARMACIES DRUG NEWS

Drug Information and News for Health Care Providers

November 2018

3 Key Vaccines for Older Adults

Vaccination is a critical element of care for older adults. Prevention of potentially serious infections and spread of illness that eventually reduces hospitalizations and mortality are important benefits of immunization in the elderly population. In light of the high burden of illness associated with infectious diseases in older adults, it is critically important that influenza, herpes zoster (shingles), and pneumococcal vaccines are given in this population.

What are the current recommendations for the use of these vaccines?

	INFLUENZA	SHINGLES	PNEUMOCOCCAL
Types of vaccines available	<p>Inactivated Influenza Vaccines (IIVs): Trivalent (Influvac[®], Fluviral[®], Agriflu[®]) Trivalent high-dose (Fluzone[®] High-Dose) Trivalent, adjuvanted (Fluad[®]) Quadrivalent (Flulaval[®] Tetra, Fluzone[®] Quadrivalent)</p> <p>Live-Attenuated Influenza Vaccine (LAIV): Quadrivalent Intranasal (FluMist[®] Quadrivalent)</p>	<p>Non-live: Shingrix: adjuvanted</p> <p>Live-Attenuated: Zostavax[®] II</p>	<p>Inactivated: Pneumovax[®] 23 Prenar[®] 13</p>
Recommendations for use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ≥ 65 years of age • Living in nursing or retirement homes • FluMist not indicated for those ≥ 60 years of age 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ≥ 60 years of age 	Both vaccines are recommended for people ≥ 65 years of age because they cover different pneumococcal bacteria.
Dosage and Administration	<p>One dose once a year, usually in the fall</p> <p>IM administration (except FluMist is Intranasal)</p>	<p>Shingrix: Two doses, two to six months apart for IM administration Zostavax II: One dose for SC administration</p>	<p>Prenar 13, one dose (IM), followed by one dose of Pneumovax 23 (IM or SC) at least eight weeks later.</p> <p>For those who have already received Pneumovax 23, wait one year before giving Prenar 13.</p>
Can it be given at the same time as other vaccines?	Yes. Other vaccines must be given as separate injections and at different body sites.	Yes. Other vaccines must be given as separate injections and at different body sites.	Yes. Other vaccines must be given as separate injections and at different body sites.

References:

1. Government of Canada. Canadian Immunization Guide, Part 4 – Active Vaccines. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/healthy-living/canadian-immunization-guide-part-4-active-vaccines.html>. Accessed August 22, 2018.
2. Vaudry W, Zhao L, Stirling R on behalf of the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI). Summary of the NACI Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Statement for 2018–2019. *Can Commun Dis Rep* 2018;44(6):123-8.
3. Dooling KL, Guo A, Patel M, et al. Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices for Use of Herpes Zoster Vaccines. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2018;67:103–108. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6703a5>. Accessed August 22, 2018.



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