

Newsletter version 65 years and older – Remember Pneumococcal Vaccination this year

Pneumococcal vaccination is one of the key preventative measures for older Australians. Adults aged 65 years or older are at high risk of contracting pneumococcal disease, with the majority of deaths occurring in this age group¹.

In 2005 the pneumococcal immunisation program commenced and during that year many Australian 65 years or older were vaccinated against pneumococcal disease². This year, the 5 year booster doses are due for those patients first immunised in 2005.

Whilst many clinics rely on medical software to “recall” patients due for immunisation boosters in 2010, 5 years ago, the use of this medical software to recall patients was not used so routinely.

For this pneumococcal revaccination year, how will your clinic identify patients due for their booster?

- Will your clinic be notifying all patients aged 70 years and over about pneumococcal boosters in the flu recall letter?
- How will patients’ immunisation status be checked in your clinic e.g. “when patients present at the clinic front desk” or at “the time of flu immunisation?”

Whether your clinic prefers to “recall” patients or “opportunistically” vaccinate, ensure your clinic has a system to check the pneumococcal vaccination status of all your patients 65 years and over in 2010.

This article was provided by CSL Biotherapies Pty Ltd ABN 66 120 398 067, 45 Poplar Road, Parkville, 3052.

References: 1. Australian Government Department of health and Ageing, Immunise Australian Program – Pneumococcal Disease. Accessed 27 Oct 2009: www.immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/content/immunise-pneumococcal 2. The Australian Immunisation Handbook, NHMRC. 9th Edition, 2008, Chapter 3.15.