

Vaccination for older adults

Information for Immunisation Providers

National Immunisation Program (NIP) funded vaccines

Vaccines recommended and funded for older people at specific ages on the National Immunisation Program (NIP) Schedule include:

- Influenza vaccine
- Shingles vaccine
- Pneumococcal vaccine

Recommendations

Influenza vaccine - 65 years and older

A single dose of adjuvanted quadrivalent influenza vaccine (Fluad) is recommended and funded for all adults aged 65 years and older every year. This vaccine is recommended in preference to standard QIVs for adults aged ≥ 65 as they increase the immune system's response to the vaccine.

Pneumococcal vaccine

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults ≥ 50 years

All Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults ≥ 50 years of age are recommended and funded to receive 1 dose of 13vPCV (Prevenar 13[®]) and 2 doses of 23vPPV (Pneumovax 23[®]).

Non-Indigenous healthy adults ≥ 70 years

All non-Indigenous healthy adults aged ≥ 70 years are recommended to receive 1 dose of 13vPCV (Prevenar 13[®]).

When administering 13vPCV for people who have previously received 23vPPV, the interval should be a minimum of 12 months¹.

The number of lifetime doses of 23vPPV is limited to 2 doses for all people. Previous doses of 23vPPV received are counted when deciding on how many more are required. If a person has already received at least two doses based on previous recommendations, no further doses of 23vPPV are to be given.

* Repeat doses of 23vPPV are associated with higher rates of adverse events, especially injection site reactions. There is also a possibility that additional doses of 23vPPV (beyond 2 doses) may lead to immune hyporesponsiveness.

¹ Refer to the Australian Immunisation Handbook for further details



Herpes Zoster (Shingles) vaccine – 70-79 years of age

A single dose of zoster vaccine is recommended and funded for adults aged 70 years (catch-up to 79 years) who have not previously received zoster vaccine. There is currently no booster recommendation for zoster vaccine.

Details of dose intervals and catch-up recommendations are provided in the Australian Immunisation Handbook (online) - <https://immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au/>

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