

James A Lovell Federal Health Care Center

Immunology

Contacts:

Immunization Clinic Appointments for Non-Covid-19 Vaccines

DOD/Tricare enrolled patients: (800)941-4501

VA Enrolled Patients (224)610-3899

Flu/Pneumococcal/Shingles

**Immunization Clinic Appointments for Covid-19 Vaccines and Booster
Shots***

Active Duty/Pediatric Patients (800)941-4501

All other adults and CHAMPVA Enrolled Patients (224)610-3899

***Please bring your COVID-19 Vaccination Card to your appointment**

Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine: *What You Need to Know*

Many vaccine information statements are available in Spanish and other languages. See www.immunize.org/vis

Hojas de información sobre vacunas están disponibles en español y en muchos otros idiomas. Visite www.immunize.org/vis

1. Why get vaccinated?

Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine can prevent pneumococcal disease.

Pneumococcal disease refers to any illness caused by pneumococcal bacteria. These bacteria can cause many types of illnesses, including pneumonia, which is an infection of the lungs. Pneumococcal bacteria are one of the most common causes of pneumonia.

Besides pneumonia, pneumococcal bacteria can also cause:

- Ear infections
- Sinus infections
- Meningitis (infection of the tissue covering the brain and spinal cord)
- Bacteremia (infection of the blood)
- Anyone can get pneumococcal disease, but children under 2 years old, people with certain medical conditions or other risk factors, and adults 65 years or older are at the highest risk.

Most pneumococcal infections are mild. However, some can result in long-term problems, such as brain damage or hearing loss. Meningitis, bacteremia, and pneumonia caused by pneumococcal disease can be fatal.

2. Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine

Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine helps protect against bacteria that cause pneumococcal disease. There are three pneumococcal conjugate vaccines (PCV13, PCV15, and PCV20). The different vaccines are recommended for different people based on their age and medical status.

PCV13

- **Infants and young children** usually need 4 doses of PCV13, at ages 2, 4, 6, and 12–15 months.
- **Older children (through age 59 months)** may be vaccinated with PCV13 if they did not receive the recommended doses.
- **Children and adolescents 6–18 years of age** with certain medical conditions should receive a single dose of PCV13 if they did not already receive PCV13.

PCV15 or PCV20

- **Adults 19 through 64 years old** with certain medical conditions or other risk factors who have not already received a pneumococcal conjugate vaccine should receive either:
 - a single dose of PCV15 followed by a dose of pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPSV23), or
 - a single dose of PCV20.
- **Adults 65 years or older** who have not already received a pneumococcal conjugate vaccine should receive either:
 - a single dose of PCV15 followed by a dose of PPSV23, or
 - a single dose of PCV20.

Your health care provider can give you more information.



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3. Talk with your health care provider

Tell your vaccination provider if the person getting the vaccine:

- Has had an **allergic reaction after a previous dose of any type of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine** (PCV13, PCV15, PCV20, or an earlier pneumococcal conjugate vaccine known as PCV7), or to any vaccine containing diphtheria toxoid (for example, DTaP), or has any **severe, life-threatening allergies**

In some cases, your health care provider may decide to postpone pneumococcal conjugate vaccination until a future visit.

People with minor illnesses, such as a cold, may be vaccinated. People who are moderately or severely ill should usually wait until they recover.

Your health care provider can give you more information.

4. Risks of a vaccine reaction

- Redness, swelling, pain, or tenderness where the shot is given, and fever, loss of appetite, fussiness (irritability), feeling tired, headache, muscle aches, joint pain, and chills can happen after pneumococcal conjugate vaccination.

Young children may be at increased risk for seizures caused by fever after PCV13 if it is administered at the same time as inactivated influenza vaccine. Ask your health care provider for more information.

People sometimes faint after medical procedures, including vaccination. Tell your provider if you feel dizzy or have vision changes or ringing in the ears.

As with any medicine, there is a very remote chance of a vaccine causing a severe allergic reaction, other serious injury, or death.

5. What if there is a serious problem?

An allergic reaction could occur after the vaccinated person leaves the clinic. If you see signs of a severe allergic reaction (hives, swelling of the face and throat, difficulty breathing, a fast heartbeat, dizziness, or weakness), call **9-1-1** and get the person to the nearest hospital.

For other signs that concern you, call your health care provider.

Adverse reactions should be reported to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS). Your health care provider will usually file this report, or you can do it yourself. Visit the VAERS website at www.vaers.hhs.gov or call **1-800-822-7967**.

VAERS is only for reporting reactions, and VAERS staff members do not give medical advice.

6. The National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program

The National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (VICP) is a federal program that was created to compensate people who may have been injured by certain vaccines. Claims regarding alleged injury or death due to vaccination have a time limit for filing, which may be as short as two years. Visit the VICP website at www.hrsa.gov/vaccinecompensation or call **1-800-338-2382** to learn about the program and about filing a claim.

7. How can I learn more?

- Ask your health care provider.
- Call your local or state health department.
- Visit the website of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for vaccine package inserts and additional information at www.fda.gov/vaccines-blood-biologics/vaccines.
- Contact the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):
 - Call **1-800-232-4636 (1-800-CDC-INFO)** or
 - Visit CDC's website at www.cdc.gov/vaccines.



Protect yourself from **shingles**...

Get vaccinated!

What is shingles?

Shingles is a painful disease caused by the same virus that causes chickenpox. It is also called zoster.

Shingles usually includes a painful rash with blisters that can occur anywhere on your body, even the face and eyes.

The main symptom of shingles is severe pain. Some people have compared it with the pain of childbirth or kidney stones.

Is it serious?

Get
vaccinated
against shingles
if you're 60
or older!

Yes. For about 1 out of 5 people with shingles, severe pain can continue for months, or even years.

This long-lasting pain can be so bad that it interferes with eating and sleeping. Some people with severe pain from shingles have even committed suicide.

Although some medicines can help treat shingles, there is no cure.



Am I at risk?

Anyone who has ever had chickenpox can get shingles. You are more likely to develop shingles as you get older.

How can I protect myself from shingles?



The best way to prevent shingles and its serious complications is to get vaccinated.

You should get the shingles shot if you are age 60 years or older, even if you've already had shingles. It is possible to get the disease more than once.

► For more information, visit www.vaccineinformation.org

Recombinant Zoster (Shingles) Vaccine: *What You Need to Know*

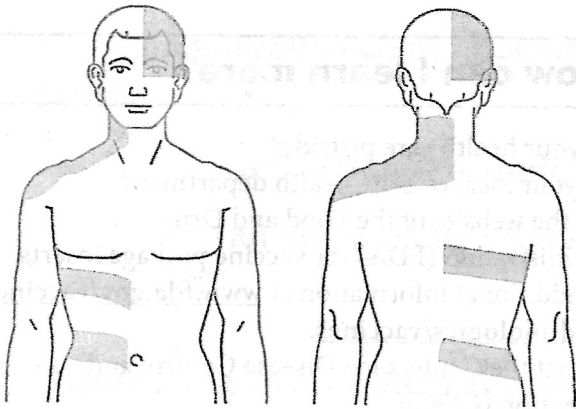
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1. Why get vaccinated?

Recombinant zoster (shingles) vaccine can prevent shingles.

Shingles (also called herpes zoster, or just zoster) is a painful skin rash, usually with blisters. In addition to the rash, shingles can cause fever, headache, chills, or upset stomach. Rarely, shingles can lead to complications such as pneumonia, hearing problems, blindness, brain inflammation (encephalitis), or death.



The risk of shingles increases with age. The most common complication of shingles is long-term nerve pain called postherpetic neuralgia (PHN). PHN occurs in the areas where the shingles rash was and can last for months or years after the rash goes away. The pain from PHN can be severe and debilitating.

The risk of PHN increases with age. An older adult with shingles is more likely to develop PHN and have longer lasting and more severe pain than a younger person.

People with weakened immune systems also have a higher risk of getting shingles and complications from the disease.

Shingles is caused by varicella-zoster virus, the same virus that causes chickenpox. After you have chickenpox, the virus stays in your body and can cause shingles later in life. Shingles cannot be passed from one person to another, but the virus that causes shingles can spread and cause chickenpox in someone who has never had chickenpox or has never received chickenpox vaccine.

2. Recombinant shingles vaccine

Recombinant shingles vaccine provides strong protection against shingles. By preventing shingles, recombinant shingles vaccine also protects against PHN and other complications.

Recombinant shingles vaccine is recommended for:

- **Adults 50 years and older**
- **Adults 19 years and older who have a weakened immune system** because of disease or treatments

Shingles vaccine is given as a two-dose series. For most people, the second dose should be given 2 to 6 months after the first dose. Some people who have or will have a weakened immune system can get the second dose 1 to 2 months after the first dose. Ask your health care provider for guidance.

People who have had shingles in the past and people who have received varicella (chickenpox) vaccine are recommended to get recombinant shingles vaccine. The vaccine is also recommended for people who have already gotten another type of shingles vaccine, the live shingles vaccine. There is no live virus in recombinant shingles vaccine.

Shingles vaccine may be given at the same time as other vaccines.



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3. Talk with your health care provider

Tell your vaccination provider if the person getting the vaccine:

- Has had an **allergic reaction after a previous dose of recombinant shingles vaccine**, or has any **severe, life-threatening allergies**
- Is **currently experiencing an episode of shingles**
- Is **pregnant**

In some cases, your health care provider may decide to postpone shingles vaccination until a future visit.

People with minor illnesses, such as a cold, may be vaccinated. People who are moderately or severely ill should usually wait until they recover before getting recombinant shingles vaccine.

Your health care provider can give you more information.

4. Risks of a vaccine reaction

- A sore arm with mild or moderate pain is very common after recombinant shingles vaccine. Redness and swelling can also happen at the site of the injection.
- Tiredness, muscle pain, headache, shivering, fever, stomach pain, and nausea are common after recombinant shingles vaccine.

These side effects may temporarily prevent a vaccinated person from doing regular activities. Symptoms usually go away on their own in 2 to 3 days. You should still get the second dose of recombinant shingles vaccine even if you had one of these reactions after the first dose.

Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS), a serious nervous system disorder, has been reported very rarely after recombinant zoster vaccine.

People sometimes faint after medical procedures, including vaccination. Tell your provider if you feel dizzy or have vision changes or ringing in the ears.

As with any medicine, there is a very remote chance of a vaccine causing a severe allergic reaction, other serious injury, or death.

5. What if there is a serious problem?

An allergic reaction could occur after the vaccinated person leaves the clinic. If you see signs of a severe allergic reaction (hives, swelling of the face and throat, difficulty breathing, a fast heartbeat, dizziness, or weakness), call **9-1-1** and get the person to the nearest hospital.

For other signs that concern you, call your health care provider.

Adverse reactions should be reported to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS). Your health care provider will usually file this report, or you can do it yourself. Visit the VAERS website at www.vaers.hhs.gov or call **1-800-822-7967**. *VAERS is only for reporting reactions, and VAERS staff members do not give medical advice.*

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