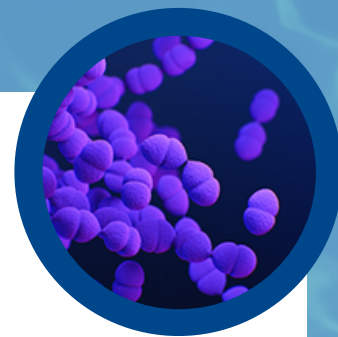


Vaccination FAQ: Pneumococcal Diseases

For People with Kidney Diseases



What is a pneumococcal disease?

Pneumococcal disease is a name for any infection caused by the bacteria *Streptococcus pneumoniae*. The bacteria can cause many types of infections including pneumonia, meningitis, bacteremia, otitis media, and sinusitis.

How is pneumococcal disease transmitted?

Transmission of the bacteria occurs through direct person-to-person contact via respiratory droplets. Serious infections can result in long-term health problems or death.

Can there be complications related to pneumococcal disease?

Yes. The more serious clinical infections of pneumococcal disease are **pneumonia, blood stream infections, and meningitis**. Less serious, but more common, infections include **otitis media and sinusitis**. Serious infections can result in **long-term problems or death**.

Are there certain people more at risk for severe complications?

People at increased risk for pneumococcal disease include adults 65 years or older. Some chronic health conditions, including chronic kidney disease, increase the risk for severe pneumococcal disease.

What is the best protection against pneumococcal disease?

Vaccination is the best way to prevent pneumococcal disease.

What are the recommendations for people being considered for a kidney transplant?

The pneumococcal vaccine is safe for solid organ transplant candidates. It is important to discuss vaccination with the transplant nephrologist during the transplant work up.

Can post-transplant patients receive a pneumococcal vaccination?

As the pneumococcal vaccine is not a live vaccine, post-transplant patients may be eligible for vaccination. It is important that family and household members consider vaccination.

What if a patient is noted to have signs/symptoms of pneumococcal infection while receiving dialysis in the outpatient facility?

If a patient has signs and symptoms of an infection that includes a cough, place a mask on the patient and health care staff. Advise the patient to seek medical care.

¹ <https://med.stanford.edu/content/dam/sm/bugsanddrugs/documents/clinicalpathways/Vaccines%20SOT%202022.pdf>

