

# **Pevnar 13™**

## **Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine**

### **What is Pevnar 13™?**

Pevnar 13™ is a vaccine that helps protect against serious diseases caused by pneumonia bacteria (germs). Infections with pneumonia bacteria can cause meningitis (swelling of the lining of the brain and spinal cord), pneumonia, and blood and ear infections.

### **Who should get the vaccine?**

Infants and children 2 months to 5 years of age should get the vaccine to provide protection against 13 different types of pneumonia bacteria. The vaccine is **FREE** for children from 6 weeks of age until their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Adults 50 years of age and older can receive one lifetime dose of the vaccine, for a fee.

### **What is invasive pneumococcal disease?**

Invasive pneumococcal disease, or IPD, is one of the leading causes of serious illness and death among young children and the elderly.

The bacteria are often carried in the noses of young children without causing any disease. It is spread through respiratory droplets as a result of coughing and sneezing.

Groups most at risk for IPD are young children, the elderly and younger adults with underlying illnesses, such as chronic lung disease or heart disease, diabetes, or a weakened immune system.

The risk of IPD is 20-times greater in children attending child care centres.

It can cause:

- Pneumonia
- Blood infections
- Meningitis
- Ear infection
- Nasal or sinus infection
- Infection of inner lining of heart and valves

### **What are the symptoms of IPD?**

Symptoms can vary, but most often include the sudden onset of:

- Fever, chills
- Painful breathing and coughing
- Chest pain
- Productive cough (phlegm)
- Rusty sputum (spit)
- Shortness of breath
- Rapid breathing
- Rapid heart beat
- Weakness

Headache, vomiting and a stiff neck are possible.

Symptoms, some of which may be difficult to detect in infants, include:

- Fever
- Difficulty waking
- Irritability
- Vomiting
- Not eating
- Stiff neck

### **Who should not get the vaccine?**

- Anyone with a fever or infection worse than a cold.
- Anyone who has reacted to other pneumococcal vaccines.
- Anyone with a known reaction to:
  - Sodium chloride
  - Succinic acid
  - Diphtheria toxoid
  - Polysorbate 80

...More



COUNTY OF  
LAMBTON

### **COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

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Point Edward, Ontario N7T 7Z6  
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Toll free: 1-800-667-1839  
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## **Does Pevnar 13™ have side effects?**

Pevnar 13™ may cause mild pain, swelling, and redness at the spot where the needle was given.

Some people may get a mild fever, headache, muscle or joint aches, loss of appetite or feel tired for 1-2 days. Irritability, drowsiness, and restlessness have also been reported in some children. Some adults may experience diarrhea, rash, and/or chills after getting the shot.

Call your doctor if any of the following signs show within 3 days after the shot:

- Hives
- Swelling of the face or mouth
- Trouble breathing
- Pale colour
- Very tired
- High fever (over 40°C or 104°F)
- Convulsions or seizures
- Other problems

## **Questions about Pevnar 13™?**

If you have any questions about the vaccine, talk with your health-care provider or call Community Health Services Department at 519 383-8331 or toll free 1-800-667-1839.

For more information on vaccine preventable diseases, visit [www.lambtonhealth.on.ca](http://www.lambtonhealth.on.ca).