

Pevnar[®]13 replaces Synflorix[™] for Pneumococcal Vaccination of Infants and Children

Pevnar[®]13 is replacing Synflorix[™] (Pneu-C-10) as the pneumococcal conjugate vaccine in Ontario's publicly funded immunization program for children 2 months to <5 years of age. Pevnar[®]13 is a pneumococcal conjugate vaccine that protects against 13 serotypes. In addition to the 10 serotypes covered by Pneu-C-10, Pevnar 13 also covers against serotypes 3, 6A and 19A. Epidemiology of pneumococcal serotypes in Ontario shows a rise in 19A disease with drug resistance in infants and children.

How to use Pevnar[®]13: The eligibility and schedule for Pevnar[®]13 depends on the history of previous pneumococcal conjugate vaccine, age and health status. The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) has tables to guide your decision that are available at: http://toronto.ca/health/immunization_children/pdf/prevnar13_eligibility.pdf. A fact sheet to hand out to parents is also available at http://toronto.ca/health/cdc/factsheets/pdf/fs_prevnar.pdf

For the routine immunization of healthy infants: use a 2+1 schedule, i.e. at 2, 4, and 12 months of age. To complete the primary series, Pevnar[®]13 will replace Synflorix[™] for the next dose of pneumococcal vaccine for those who have started the schedule, however no dose is given at 6 months of age.

For high risk children: use a 3+1 schedule, i.e. at 2, 4, 6 and 12-15 months of age.

High risk criteria include:

- Chronic respiratory disease (except asthma)
- Chronic cardiac disease
- Chronic renal disease or nephrotic syndrome
- Cirrhosis
- Diabetes
- Asplenia, splenic dysfunction
- Chronic cerebrospinal fluid leak
- Primary immune deficiency
- HIV infection
- Other conditions with immunosuppression
- Solid organ transplant recipients
- Cochlear implant recipients
- Sickle-cell disease

Catch-up for toddlers 2 years of age: Children who are 2 years or are turning 2 years in 2011 and have completed the primary series with Synflorix[™]/ Pevnar[®]7 are eligible for a single catch-up dose of Pevnar[®]13. Ensure it is given more than 8 weeks after the last dose.

Three injections at the 12 month visit: With the change to the provincial immunization schedule, now 3 different vaccines are recommended at the 12 month visit. Ensure each vaccine injection site is separated by 1-2 inches or use 3 separate sites. Meningitis C conjugate vaccine and Pevnar[®]13 are given IM and MMR subcutaneously. Clinical trials showed that the immune responses and safety of vaccinating with these 3 injections is preserved. In order to reduce the pain and distress for the infants and parents due to the multiple injections, please provide parents with the fact sheet, "How to reduce your child's pain from immunization", available at: http://www.toronto.ca/health/immunization_children/howtoreducepain.htm .

Important to give the 12 month Pevnar[®]13 dose on time: Lower immune responses have been observed in some infants after the first 2 doses but after the 12 month dose there is a good immune response to all serotypes. To ensure protection and prevent breakthrough disease, the 12 month booster dose should be given on time.

How can I order Pevnar[®]13? Choose Pneu-C-13 on your vaccine order form.

Where can I get more information about Pevnar[®]13? Visit our website at: www.toronto.ca/health or call Toronto Public Health Immunization Information Line at 416-392-1250 and ask to speak to a nurse.