

Catherine Street Medical Centre

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Pneumococcal Vaccine

Pneumococcal disease is a very serious disease. It is a major cause of illness and death, particularly among the very young, the very old and those with no spleen or impaired immunity. It is a major cause of pneumonia in the community.

It also causes;

- Meningitis,
- Sinusitis
- Bronchitis
- Ear infection
- Blood stream infection (Bacteraemia)

Over the years Streptococcus pneumoniae has become resistant to many antibiotics, making the treatment of pneumococcal infections much more difficult.

Therefore prevention of disease through vaccination is now more important than ever.

PCV pneumococcal vaccine is given to all babies as part of the routine childhood immunisation schedule.

The following should be vaccinated with the Pneumovac pneumococcal vaccine:

Everyone aged 65 years and over, and

Also those aged over 2 years with;

- Diabetes mellitus
- Chronic heart, lung or liver disease
- Chronic kidney disease, renal transplant patients
- Sickle cell disease
- Those who have had their spleen removed
- Disorders of the immune system including cancer
- People receiving chemotherapy or other treatments that depress the immune system
- Persons with HIV infection or AIDS
- Those who have received or are about to receive cochlear transplants

Pneumococcal vaccine may be given at the same time as influenza vaccine. You may safely receive the two vaccines when you attend for your Flu vaccine.