

CMS Manual System	Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS)
Pub 100-02 Medicare Benefit Policy	Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)
Transmittal 13003	Date: December 19, 2024
	Change Request 13898

SUBJECT: Revisions to Medicare Part B Coverage of Pneumococcal Vaccinations for the Medicare Benefit Policy Manual Chapter 15, Section 50.4.4.2

I. SUMMARY OF CHANGES: The purpose of this Change Request (CR) is to inform contractors that effective October 23, 2024, CMS updated the Medicare coverage requirements to align with the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations for Coverage of Pneumococcal Vaccinations. This CR makes the necessary updates to Publication (Pub) 100-02, the Benefit Policy Manual.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 23, 2024

**Unless otherwise specified, the effective date is the date of service.*

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: February 3, 2025

Disclaimer for manual changes only: The revision date and transmittal number apply only to red italicized material. Any other material was previously published and remains unchanged. However, if this revision contains a table of contents, you will receive the new/revised information only, and not the entire table of contents.

II. CHANGES IN MANUAL INSTRUCTIONS: (N/A if manual is not updated)

R=REVISED, N=NEW, D=DELETED-*Only One Per Row.*

R/N/D	CHAPTER / SECTION / SUBSECTION / TITLE
R	15/50.4.4.2/Immunizations

III. FUNDING:

For Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs):

The Medicare Administrative Contractor is hereby advised that this constitutes technical direction as defined in your contract. CMS does not construe this as a change to the MAC Statement of Work. The contractor is not obligated to incur costs in excess of the amounts allotted in your contract unless and until specifically authorized by the Contracting Officer. If the contractor considers anything provided, as described above, to be outside the current scope of work, the contractor shall withhold performance on the part(s) in question and immediately notify the Contracting Officer, in writing or by e-mail, and request formal directions regarding continued performance requirements.

IV. ATTACHMENTS:

**Business Requirements
Manual Instruction**

Attachment - Business Requirements

Pub. 100-02	Transmittal: 13003	Date: December 19, 2024	Change Request: 13898
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I. SUMMARY OF CHANGES: The purpose of this Change Request (CR) is to inform contractors that effective October 23, 2024, CMS updated the Medicare coverage requirements to align with the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations for Coverage of Pneumococcal Vaccinations. This CR makes the necessary updates to Publication (Pub) 100-02, the Benefit Policy Manual.

II. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. Background:

The purpose of this Change Request (CR) is to update the Publication (Pub) 100-02 Benefit Policy Manual coverage requirements to align with the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations for Coverage of Pneumococcal Vaccinations.

Section 1861(s)(10)(A) of the Social Security Act and regulations at 42 CFR 410.57 authorize Medicare coverage under Part B for pneumococcal vaccine and its administration.

While various changes in coverage of pneumococcal vaccination have occurred, in recent years Medicare has routinely followed the vaccination guidance of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) when updating coverage for pneumococcal vaccinations. This Change Request (CR) is an update to the most recent transmittal 12801, CR 13750 issued on August 21, 2024.

<https://www.cms.gov/regulations-and-guidance/guidance/transmittals/2024-transmittals/r12801bp>

B. Policy: Effective October 23, 2024, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) updated the Medicare coverage requirements to align with ACIP recommendations. ACIP recommends that adults age ≥ 50 years who have not previously received a Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV) or whose previous vaccination history is unknown should receive 1 dose of PCV (either PCV21, PCV20 or PCV15). When PCV15 is used, it should be followed by a dose of 23-Valent Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Vaccine (PPSV23).

For those adults aged 19–49 years with certain underlying medical conditions or other risk factors who have not previously received PCV or whose previous vaccination history is unknown should receive 1 dose of PCV (either PCV21, PCV20 or PCV15). When PCV15 is used, it should be followed by a dose of PPSV23.

Underlying medical conditions or other risk factors include alcoholism, chronic heart disease, chronic liver disease, chronic lung disease, cigarette smoking, diabetes mellitus, cochlear implant, cerebrospinal fluid leak, congenital or acquired asplenia, sickle cell disease or other hemoglobinopathies, chronic renal failure, congenital or acquired immunodeficiencies, generalized malignancy, HIV infection, Hodgkin disease, iatrogenic immunosuppression, leukemia, lymphoma, multiple myeloma, nephrotic syndrome and solid organ transplant.

Clinical guidance shows that when PCV15 is used, the recommended interval between administration of PCV15 and PPSV23 is ≥ 1 year. A minimum interval of 8 weeks can be considered for adults with an immunocompromising condition, cochlear implant, or cerebrospinal fluid leak to minimize the risk for invasive pneumococcal disease caused by serotypes unique to PPSV23 in these vulnerable

groups. Immunocompromising conditions include chronic renal failure, congenital or acquired immunodeficiencies, generalized malignancy, HIV infection, Hodgkin disease, iatrogenic immunosuppression, leukemia, lymphoma, multiple myeloma, nephrotic syndrome, solid organ transplant, congenital or acquired asplenia, sickle cell disease, or other hemoglobinopathies.

For adults who have only received PPSV23, they should receive a PCV (either PCV21, PCV20 or PCV15) ≥ 1 year after their last PPSV23 dose. When PCV15 is used in those with history of PPSV23 receipt, it need not be followed by another dose of PPSV23.

For adults aged ≥ 50 years who completed their vaccine series with both PCV13 and PPSV23, but no PPSV23 was received at age ≥ 50 , either one dose of PCV21 or PCV20 is recommended at least 5 years after the last pneumococcal vaccine dose or complete the recommended PPSV23 series as previously recommended.

Shared clinical decision-making is recommended regarding administration of PCV21 or PCV20 for adults age ≥ 50 years who completed their vaccine series with both PCV13 and PPSV23, and PPSV23 was received at age ≥ 50 . If a decision to administer PCV21 or PCV20 is made, a dose of PCV21 or PCV20 is recommended at least 5 years after the last pneumococcal vaccine dose.

In addition, adults age ≥ 50 years and adults aged 19-49 years with certain underlying medical conditions or other risk factors who have received PCV13 only are recommended to receive a dose of PCV21 or PCV20 at least 1 year after the PCV13 dose or PPSV23 as previously recommended to complete their pneumococcal vaccine series.

ACIP recommends that adults aged 19-49 years with certain underlying medical conditions or other risk factors who received both PCV13 and PPSV23 with incomplete vaccination status are recommended to complete their pneumococcal vaccine series by receiving either a dose of PCV21 or PCV20 at least 5 years after the last pneumococcal vaccine dose, or PPSV23 as previously recommended.

III. BUSINESS REQUIREMENTS TABLE

"Shall" denotes a mandatory requirement, and "should" denotes an optional requirement.

Number	Requirement	Responsibility								
		A/B MAC			DME MAC	Shared-System Maintainers				Other
		A	B	HHH		FISS	MCS	VMS	CWF	
13898.1	Effective for dates of service on and after October 23, 2024, contractors shall pay claims for pneumococcal vaccinations under Part B as described in updated Pub. 100-02, Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, chapter 15, section 50.4.4.2.	X	X							
13898.2	Contractors shall not search for any claims for pneumococcal vaccines and their administration, with dates of service on and after October 23, 2024. However, contractors shall adjust claims brought to their attention.	X	X							

IV. PROVIDER EDUCATION

Medicare Learning Network® (MLN): CMS will develop and release national provider education content and market it through the MLN Connects® newsletter shortly after we issue the CR. MACs shall link to relevant information on your website and follow IOM Pub. No. 100-09 Chapter 6, Section 50.2.4.1 for distributing the newsletter to providers. When you follow this manual section, you don't need to separately track and report MLN content releases. You may supplement with your local educational content after we release the newsletter.

Impacted Contractors: A/B MAC Part A, A/B MAC Part B

V. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Section A: Recommendations and supporting information associated with listed requirements: N/A

"Should" denotes a recommendation.

X-Ref Requirement Number	Recommendations or other supporting information:
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Section B: All other recommendations and supporting information:N/A

VI. CONTACTS

Post-Implementation Contact(s): Contact your Contracting Officer's Representative (COR).

VII. FUNDING

Section A: For Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs):

The Medicare Administrative Contractor is hereby advised that this constitutes technical direction as defined in your contract. CMS does not construe this as a change to the MAC Statement of Work. The contractor is not obligated to incur costs in excess of the amounts allotted in your contract unless and until specifically authorized by the Contracting Officer. If the contractor considers anything provided, as described above, to be outside the current scope of work, the contractor shall withhold performance on the part(s) in question and immediately notify the Contracting Officer, in writing or by e-mail, and request formal directions regarding continued performance requirements.

ATTACHMENTS: 0

50.4.4.2 – Immunizations

(Rev. 13003; Issued: 12-19-24; Effective: 10-23-24; Implementation: 02-03-25)

Vaccinations or inoculations are excluded as immunizations unless they are directly related to the treatment of an injury or direct exposure to a disease or condition, such as anti-rabies treatment, tetanus antitoxin or booster vaccine, botulin antitoxin, antivenin sera, or immune globulin. In the absence of injury or direct exposure, preventive immunization (vaccination or inoculation) against such diseases as smallpox, polio, diphtheria, etc. is not covered. However, Epneumococcal, hepatitis B, and influenza virus vaccines are exceptions to this rule. (See items A, B, and C below.) In cases where a vaccination or inoculation is excluded from coverage, related charges are also not covered.

A. Pneumococcal Pneumonia Vaccinations

1. Background and History of Coverage:

Section 1861(s)(10)(A) of the Social Security Act and regulations at 42 CFR 410.57 authorize Medicare coverage under Part B for pneumococcal vaccine and its administration.

For services furnished on or after May 1, *1981*, through September 18, 2014, the Medicare Part B program covered pneumococcal pneumonia vaccine and its administration when furnished in compliance with any applicable State law by any provider of services or any entity or individual with a supplier number. Coverage included an initial vaccine administered only to persons at high risk of serious pneumococcal disease (including all people *50* and older; immunocompetent adults at increased risk of pneumococcal disease or its complications because of chronic illness; and individuals with compromised immune systems), with revaccination administered only to persons at highest risk of serious pneumococcal infection and those likely to have a rapid decline in pneumococcal antibody levels, provided that at least 5 years had passed since the previous dose of pneumococcal vaccine.

Those administering the vaccine did not require the patient to present an immunization record prior to administering the pneumococcal vaccine, nor were they compelled to review the patient's complete medical record if it was not available, relying on the patient's verbal history to determine prior vaccination status.

Effective for claims with dates of service on and after September 19, 2014, an initial pneumococcal vaccine may be administered to all Medicare beneficiaries who have never received a pneumococcal vaccination under Medicare Part B. A different, second pneumococcal vaccine may be administered 1 year after the first vaccine was administered (i.e., 11 full months have passed following the month in which the last pneumococcal vaccine was administered).

Effective July 1, 2000, Medicare no longer required for coverage purposes that a doctor of medicine or osteopathy order the vaccine. Therefore, a beneficiary could receive the vaccine upon request without a physician's order and without physician supervision.

2. Coverage Requirements:

Effective *October 23, 2024*, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) updated the Medicare coverage requirements to align with ACIP recommendations. Adults age ≥ 50 years who have not previously received

pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV) or whose previous vaccination history is unknown should receive 1 dose of PCV (either *PCV21*, PCV20 or PCV15). When PCV15 is used, it should be followed by a dose of 23-valent pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPSV23).

For those adults *aged* 19–49 years with certain underlying medical conditions or other risk factors who have not previously received PCV or whose previous vaccination history is unknown should receive 1 dose of PCV (either *PCV21*, PCV20 or PCV15). When PCV15 is used, it should be followed by a dose of PPSV23. Underlying medical conditions or other risk factors include alcoholism, chronic heart disease, chronic liver disease, chronic lung disease, cigarette smoking, diabetes mellitus, cochlear implant, cerebrospinal fluid leak, congenital or acquired asplenia, sickle cell disease or other hemoglobinopathies, chronic renal failure, congenital or acquired immunodeficiencies, generalized malignancy, HIV infection, Hodgkin disease, iatrogenic immunosuppression, leukemia, lymphoma, multiple myeloma, nephrotic syndrome and solid organ transplant.

Clinical guidance shows that when PCV15 is used, the recommended interval between administration of PCV15 and PPSV23 is ≥ 1 year. A minimum interval of 8 weeks can be considered for adults with an immunocompromising condition, cochlear implant, or cerebrospinal fluid leak to minimize the risk for invasive pneumococcal disease caused by serotypes unique to PPSV23 in these vulnerable groups. Immunocompromising conditions include chronic renal failure, congenital or acquired immunodeficiencies, generalized malignancy, HIV infection, Hodgkin disease, iatrogenic immunosuppression, leukemia, lymphoma, multiple myeloma, nephrotic syndrome, solid organ transplant, congenital or acquired asplenia, sickle cell disease, or other hemoglobinopathies.

For adults who only received PPSV23, they *should* receive a PCV (either *PCV21*, PCV20 or PCV15) ≥ 1 year after their last PPSV23 dose. When PCV15 is used in those with history of PPSV23 receipt, it need not be followed by another dose of PPSV23.

For adults *aged* ≥ 50 years who completed their vaccine series with both PCV13 and PPSV23, but no PPSV23 was received at age ≥ 50 , either one dose of *PCV21 or* PCV20 is recommended at least 5 years after the last pneumococcal vaccine *dose or* complete the recommended PPSV23 series as previously recommended.

Shared clinical decision-making is recommended regarding administration of *PCV21 or* PCV20 for adults age ≥ 50 years who completed their vaccine series with both PCV13 and PPSV23, and PPSV was received at age ≥ 50 . If a decision to administer *PCV21 or* PCV20 is made, a dose of *PCV21 or* PCV20 is recommended at least 5 years after the last pneumococcal vaccine dose.

In addition, adults age ≥ 50 years and adults *aged* 19–49 years with certain underlying medical conditions or other risk factors who received PCV13 only are recommended to receive a dose of *PCV21 or* PCV20 at least 1 year after the PCV13 dose, or PPSV23 as previously recommended to complete their pneumococcal vaccine series.

ACIP recommends that adults *aged* 19-49 years with certain underlying medical conditions or other risk factors who have received both PCV13 and PPSV23 with incomplete vaccination status are recommended to complete their pneumococcal vaccine series by receiving either a dose of *PCV21 or* PCV20 at least 5 years after the last pneumococcal vaccine dose, or PPSV23 as previously recommended.

Those administering the vaccine should not require the patient to present an immunization record prior to administering the pneumococcal vaccine, nor should they feel compelled to review the patient's complete medical record if it is not available. Instead, provided that the patient is competent, it is acceptable to rely on the patient's verbal history to determine prior vaccination status.

Medicare does not require for coverage purposes that a doctor of medicine or osteopathy order the vaccine. Therefore, the beneficiary may receive the vaccine upon request without a physician's order and without physician supervision.

B. Hepatitis B Vaccine

Effective for services furnished on or after September 1, 1984, P.L. 98-369 provides coverage under Part B for hepatitis B vaccine and its administration, furnished to a Medicare beneficiary who is at high or intermediate risk of contracting hepatitis B. High- risk groups currently identified include (see exception below):

- ESRD patients;
- Hemophiliacs who receive Factor VIII or IX concentrates;
- Clients of institutions for the mentally retarded;

- Persons who live in the same household as a Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) carrier;
- Homosexual men;
- Illicit injectable drug users; and
- Persons diagnosed with diabetes mellitus

Intermediate risk groups currently identified include:

- Staff in institutions for the mentally retarded; and
- Workers in health care professions who have frequent contact with blood or blood-derived body fluids during routine work.

EXCEPTION: Persons in both of the above-listed groups in paragraph B, would not be considered at high or intermediate risk of contracting hepatitis B, however, if there were laboratory evidence positive for antibodies to hepatitis B. (ESRD patients are routinely tested for hepatitis B antibodies as part of their continuing monitoring and therapy.)

For Medicare program purposes, the vaccine may be administered upon the order of a doctor of medicine or osteopathy, by a doctor of medicine or osteopathy, or

by home health agencies, skilled nursing facilities, ESRD facilities, hospital outpatient departments, and persons recognized under the incident to physicians' services provision of law.

A charge separate from the ESRD composite rate will be recognized and paid for administration of the vaccine to ESRD patients.

C. Influenza Virus Vaccine

Effective for services furnished on or after May 1, 1993, the Medicare Part B program covers influenza virus vaccine and its administration when furnished in compliance with any applicable State law by any provider of services or any entity or individual with a supplier number. Typically, these vaccines are administered once a flu season. Medicare does not require, for coverage purposes, that a doctor of medicine or osteopathy order the vaccine. Therefore, the beneficiary may receive the vaccine upon request without a physician's order and without physician supervision.