

## PRACTICE BRIEF

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### **Pneumococcal Vaccination Recall Program for Adults aged 70 years and older**

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**By the end of 2021, approx. 1 in 5 eligible Australians aged 70-79 received the NIP-funded 13vPCV vaccination.<sup>1</sup>**

**A strengthened focus on adult vaccination is needed as older adults are more than 5x likely to be hospitalised with pneumococcal pneumonia than younger adults and coverage remains suboptimal.<sup>1,2</sup>**

**The aim of this program is to recall patients who are at greater risk of pneumococcal pneumonia due to their age and other medical risk factors to help reduce their risk of hospitalisation.<sup>2</sup>**

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#### **Background**

In July 2020, 13vPCV was listed on the National Immunisation Program (NIP) for older Australians for pneumococcal disease. These people should receive a single dose of 13vPCV at age  $\geq 70$  years regardless of a prior 23vPPV.<sup>3</sup>

Vaccination from 70 years of age provides better protection as people move into older age groups with increasing risk of pneumococcal disease.<sup>3</sup>

This patient recall program will enable General Practices to conduct an SMS recall of patients who are eligible for a free Pneumococcal vaccination, funded on the National Immunisation Program (NIP).

**All costs related to this GoShare recall program and SMS bundle are covered by Pfizer Australia, manufacturer of the 13vPCV (Prevenar 13) vaccine.**

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## How are patients identified?

The recall program is deployed via GoShare, which allows an authorised practice staff member to send a recall message to patients aged 70 years and over, who are eligible for the pneumococcal vaccine.

The program can be activated within 24 hours, with a simple, secure software download. You will be allocated SMS credits and a practice staff member will be guided through the steps to create the patient list to send the recall SMS bundle out to eligible patients. It only takes 15 minutes of a practice staff member's time to complete the activity.

## What do patients receive?

Patients receive a personalised SMS from your practice asking them to make an appointment with their doctor to discuss their eligibility for a pneumococcal vaccination.

The SMS contains:

- The practice name and contact number;
- A link to information to help the patient understand what pneumococcal pneumonia is, how it can affect them; and why they may be at increased risk

## More information

If you have any queries about recall activities, please do not hesitate to contact Healthily on 03 9534 7222 or [goshare@healthily.com.au](mailto:goshare@healthily.com.au)

**References:** 1. NCIRS Annual Immunisation Coverage Report Summary 2021. Accessed March 2023. Available here: <https://ncirs.org.au/reports> 2. Patel C et al. Commun Dis Intell 2022;46. 3. National Immunisation Program – Pneumococcal vaccination schedule from 1 July 2020 – Clinical advice for vaccination providers | Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care. Accessed March 2023. Available here: <https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2020/06/national-immunisation-program-pneumococcal-vaccination-schedule-from-1-july-2020-clinical-advice-for-vaccination-providers.pdf>

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