



## What you need to know about...

### **PNEUMOCOCCAL DISEASE FOR ADULTS**

- FACT: Pneumococcal disease can be prevented with a safe, effective vaccine.
- FACT: Together, pneumonia and influenza are the seventh leading cause of death in the United States, and the fifth leading cause of death among people 65 years of age and older.
- FACT: Pneumococcal vaccine is fully covered by Medicare Part B if the healthcare provider accepts the Medicare-approved amount.
- FACT: Each year in the United States, pneumococcal disease accounts for an estimated 500,000 cases of pneumonia (infection of the lungs), 60,000 cases of bacteremia (bloodstream infection), and 3,300 cases of meningitis.
- FACT: Pneumococcal disease is to blame for up to 40,000 deaths each year in the United States. Approximately 50% of these deaths can be prevented through the use of the pneumococcal vaccine.
- FACT: Pneumococcal pneumonia accounts for up to 175,000 hospitalizations each year, and is the most common type of bacterial pneumonia in persons 65 years of age or older.
- FACT: Estimates find that only 54% of adults 65 years of age or older, and 8% to 10% of adults in high-risk groups who should get the pneumococcal vaccine, have received it.
- FACT: Pneumococcal vaccine can be given at any time during the year.
- FACT: You cannot get pneumococcal disease from the vaccine.
- FACT: A single dose of pneumococcal vaccine is recommended for persons aged 65 years or older. Some people who were younger than 65 when they received the pneumococcal vaccine may need one booster dose after 5 years.