

Best Practices For Adult Immunizations

Vaccine-preventable diseases may cause serious illness, hospitalization, and even death. Help make adult vaccination a standard of care in your practice[1]

Implementing the latest standards of care and following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations at your practice will help ensure patients receive recommended vaccines.

Practice Standards for Adult Immunization, as recommended by the National Vaccine Advisory Committee[2]:

1 ASSESS immunization status of all patients at every visit.

- **Stay informed** of the latest CDC recommendations and **use electronic health records or other reminder tools** to help your practice stay on top of needed vaccines

2 RECOMMEND vaccines that patients need.

- **Share tailored reasons** why the vaccination is right for the patient. Share your patients' experiences with vaccines, as appropriate, and address questions and concerns

3 ADMINISTER needed vaccines or REFER to a provider who can.

- **Offer the vaccines** your office stocks
- **Refer** patients to providers in the area who offer vaccines your office doesn't stock (eg, pharmacies)

4 DOCUMENT vaccines received by your patients.

- **Participate** in your state's immunization registry
- **Follow up** to confirm patients received recommended vaccines when referred to another provider

Staying current on CDC recommendations for adult immunizations is a critical best practice

CDC recommendations for vaccine-preventable diseases in adults*:



RSV[3]

- Single dose of any FDA-licensed RSV vaccine for adults ≥75 years of age and for adults 50–74 years of age at increased risk of severe RSV



Influenza[5]

- Routine annual influenza vaccination is recommended for everyone ≥6 months of age without contraindications



COVID-19[6]

- Vaccination is recommended for everyone ≥6 months (minimum interval: 2 months) of age for the prevention of COVID-19
- Adults ≥65 years of age, and people who are moderately or severely immunocompromised, should receive a multi-dose initial series with an age-appropriate 2024–25 COVID-19 vaccine, followed by a second dose of a 2024–25 COVID-19 vaccine at least six months (minimum interval: 2 months) after completion of the initial series



Hepatitis B (HBV)[8,10]

- Adults 19 to 59 years of age should complete a 2-, 3-, or 4-dose HBV series
- Adults ≥60 years of age with known risk factors should also complete an HBV series



Shingles[4]

- Two doses of herpes zoster vaccine are recommended for adults ≥50 years of age to prevent shingles and related complications
- It is also recommended for adults ≥19 years of age who are or will be immunodeficient or immunosuppressed because of disease or therapy



Pertussis[7,8]

- Single dose of Tdap for adults ≥19 years of age who have never received Tdap, followed by a Td or Tdap booster every 10 years



Pneumococcal Disease[8,9]

- For adults ≥50 years of age with no previous pneumococcal conjugate vaccination, or for whom pneumococcal vaccination history is unknown, routine vaccination consists of a single dose of PCV15, PCV20, or PCV21. If PCV15 is chosen, PPSV23 is added one year later (minimum eight weeks for those with immunocompromising conditions, chronic liver disease, diabetes, cochlear implants, or cerebrospinal fluid leaks, among others or various medical conditions); no PPSV23 is needed after PCV20 or PCV21
- Adults 19 to 49 years of age with certain underlying medical conditions or other risk factors follow the risk-based pneumococcal schedule. **Please refer to the CDC Adult Immunization Schedule.***

*Please refer to the CDC website for the complete list of vaccines on the Adult Immunization Schedule.

ACIP=Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices; PCV=pneumococcal conjugate vaccine.



Help your patients create a personalized vaccination calendar to stay current on their vaccination status

You can take steps to help optimize adult immunization rates[2]

Stay informed of the latest CDC recommendations for adult immunizations

Implement protocols or policies to ensure that patients' vaccine needs are routinely reviewed[2]

Share tailored reasons why vaccination is right for the patient[2]

Additional Resources

CDC - Standards for Adult Immunization Practice
Educational resources to support vaccination in adults with chronic health conditions, including handouts, fact sheets, videos, and infographics

Immunize.org - Standing Orders Templates for Administering Vaccines
Resources for implementing standing orders for immunization in the practice setting

Implement the latest adult immunization practice standards to help close the vaccination gap in your community

References: 1. Vaccine-preventable adult diseases. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Reviewed June 14, 2024. Accessed July 8, 2025. https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines-adults/diseases/index.html **2.** Adult immunization standards. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Reviewed August 9, 2024. Accessed July 8, 2025. https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines-adults/hcp/imz-standards/index.html **3.** RSV vaccine guidance for older adults. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Reviewed July 8, 2025. Accessed July 9, 2025. https://www.cdc.gov/rsv/hcp/vaccine-clinical-guidance/adults.html **4.** Shingles vaccine recommendations. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Reviewed October 22, 2024. Accessed July 8, 2025. https://www.cdc.gov/shingles/hcp/vaccine-considerations/index.html **5.** Grohskopf LA, Ferdinands JM, Blanton LH, Broder KR, Loehr J. Prevention and control of seasonal influenza with vaccines: recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices—United States, 2024–25 influenza season. *MMWR Recomm Rep.* 2024;73(RR-5):1–25. **6.** Overview of COVID-19 vaccines and vaccination. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Reviewed May 12, 2025. Accessed July 8, 2025. https://www.cdc.gov/covid/hcp/vaccine-considerations/overview.html **7.** Pertussis vaccination recommendations. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Reviewed October 31, 2024. Accessed July 8, 2025. https://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/hcp/vaccine-recommendations/index.html **8.** Adult immunization schedule by age (Addendum updated July 2, 2025). Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Reviewed July 2, 2025. Accessed July 8, 2025. https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/imz-schedules/adult-age.html **9.** Pneumococcal vaccine recommendations. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Reviewed October 26, 2024. Accessed July 8, 2025. https://www.cdc.gov/pneumococcal/hcp/vaccine-recommendations/index.html **10.** Hepatitis B vaccine administration. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Reviewed January 31, 2025. Accessed July 8, 2025. https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis-b/hcp/vaccine-administration/index.html

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