

# Pneumococcal Vaccine in Hospitalized Patients

## **Overview**

Pneumococcal disease kills more people in the United States each year than all other vaccine-preventable diseases combined. Anyone can get pneumococcal disease. However, some people are at greater risk from the disease, including people age 65 and older. About one out of every 20 people who get pneumococcal pneumonia dies from it. The disease has become more resistant to antibiotics, making treatment of pneumococcal infections more difficult. This makes prevention of the disease through vaccination even more important. The vaccine to protect against pneumococcal disease is a very safe vaccine. In fact, getting the disease is much more likely to cause serious problems than getting the vaccine.

## **Teleconference April 28, 2005**

Hospitals from across Wisconsin joined to learn the importance of encouraging the pneumococcal vaccination in hospitalized older patients, and obtain helpful hints for increasing the administration of the vaccine in hospitalized patients.

## **Teleconference 4-28-05:**

[http://www.wha.org/qualityAndPatientSafety/PneumovaxTeleconference\\_042805.mp3](http://www.wha.org/qualityAndPatientSafety/PneumovaxTeleconference_042805.mp3)

Dr. Dennis Maki began the program with information on the vaccine for pneumococcal pneumonia, and guidelines for administration of the vaccine to hospitalized patients. Dr. Maki is the Professor of Medicine, Head of the Section of Infectious Diseases at the University of Wisconsin Medical School in Madison, Wisconsin. In his activities as an infectious disease consultant, intensivist and hospital epidemiologist, Dr. Maki has devoted his research career to the study of causes, diagnosis and prevention of nosocomial (hospital-acquired) infections.

Dan Hopfensperger, Director of the Wisconsin Immunization Registry discussed the Registry and what to do if the patient doesn't know if they have had the immunization.

## **Wisconsin Immunization Registry**

<http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/immunization/WIR.htm>

Several Wisconsin Hospitals presented success stories from their facilities: St. Vincent Hospital, Green Bay; Franciscan Skemp Healthcare – La Crosse; and St. Mary's, Green Bay.

## **Sample Chart Forms**

[http://www.wha.org/qualityAndPatientSafety/pdf/sample\\_pneu.pdf](http://www.wha.org/qualityAndPatientSafety/pdf/sample_pneu.pdf)

## **Patient Education Materials:**

<http://www.cdc.gov/nip/publications/vis/vis-ppv.pdf>

## **Medicare Reimbursement:**

[http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn/adult\\_immunization\\_01-31-05.pdf](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn/adult_immunization_01-31-05.pdf)