

SAND abstract number 223 from the BEACH program 2014–15

Subject: Pneumococcal vaccination in general practice patients 2014

Organisation collaborating for this study: bioCSL (Australia) Pty Ltd

Issues: The proportion of general practice patients with risk factors for pneumococcal vaccination and the type of risk factors they had; the proportion of patients who received a pneumococcal vaccine; reasons for not vaccinating against pneumococcal.

Sample: 2,718 patients aged 15+ years from 103 GPs; data collection period: 06/05/2014 – 09/06/2014.

Method: Detailed in the paper entitled *SAND Method 2013–14* on this website: sydney.edu.au/medicine/fmrc/publications/sand-abstracts/

Summary of results

The age and sex distributions of the 2,718 respondents aged 15 years and over did not differ from the age and sex distributions of patients at all 2013–14 BEACH encounters.

Of 2,718 respondents, over half had at least one risk factor for pneumococcal disease (52.1%) and there was no significant difference between males and females in this proportion. More than one-third (36.1%) of all respondents were at risk due to age (65+ years), 13.8% had chronic heart disease, 11.7% had diabetes, 9.9% had chronic lung disease, 8.5% were tobacco smokers, 3.4% had chronic renal failure, 2.7% had immune deficiency and 2.0% had chronic liver disease.

Patients are eligible for a free dose of the pneumococcal vaccine under the National Immunisation Program (NIP) when they turn 65 years old. Recent changes to the NIP mean that patients aged 70 years and over need an additional risk factor (other than age) to be eligible for a second free dose of the vaccine. In this study 62.8% of patients aged 70 years and over had an additional risk factor.

Of 2,673 respondents, 739 (27.6%) had been vaccinated against pneumococcal infection in the previous five years, 68.1% had not, and 4.3% did not know whether they had been vaccinated. Of 1,408 respondents who had at least one risk factor for pneumococcal infection, 51.4% were currently vaccinated and 44.3% were not. Of the patients aged 65–69 years, 49.2% had been vaccinated, 48.5% had not and 2.3% did not know. For patients aged 70 years or more, 70.3% were currently vaccinated, 26.1% were not, and 3.6% did not know. For patients aged 70 and over with at least one additional risk factor, 75.1% had been vaccinated, 21.1% had not, and 3.8% did not know.

Among the 1,819 patients who had not been vaccinated against pneumococcal infection in the previous five years, 1,703 responded to the question on why they were not vaccinated: 72.9% were assessed by the GP as not being at risk of pneumococcal infection, 9.2% of patients objected to the vaccination, 3.5% of patients cited cost as the reason, and 2.8% of patients disagreed with the risk assessment. There were 254 patients (14.9%) who indicated other reasons, including: patient had not been assessed; patient was unaware of the vaccine; patient had been vaccinated twice already; and some patients were to receive the vaccine at the current encounter or would soon be vaccinated.

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PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

The shaded section of the following forms asks questions about **PNEUMOCOCCAL VACCINATION**.

You may tear out this page as a guide to completing the following section of forms.

INSTRUCTIONS

The following 30 forms relate to the **next 30 PATIENTS** in the order in which the patients are seen.

For any patients aged less than 15 years, please leave the questions in the bottom section blank.

For patients aged 15+ years

Risk factors for pneumococcal infection

Please use the tick boxes to indicate whether the patient has any of the listed **risk factors** or **indications** for **pneumococcal** vaccination.

Please tick as many as apply.

If the patient **does not** have any of the listed risk factors/indications please tick the box labelled **'none of the above'**.

Patients who WERE vaccinated

For patients who **received a pneumococcal vaccination** please indicate whether it was:

- **supplied free of charge** to the patient (i.e. under the Government's Immunise Australia Program),
- **subsidised by PBS** or
- **fully privately paid (e.g. by the patient, employer).**

Patients who were NOT vaccinated

For patients who **did not** receive the **pneumococcal vaccination** please indicate the **reason/s** that the **vaccine was not given**.

Please tick all options that apply.

If the reason/s for not vaccinating is one **other** than those listed, please **write the reason/s in the space provided**.

Consumer disease awareness campaign

Please indicate whether, in the past 12 months, the patient has seen a **consumer awareness campaign** about **pneumococcal disease**.

If **'yes'**, please indicate:

- whether this campaign prompted the patient to **ask a GP about vaccination**
- the **medium/media** in which the patient **saw the campaign**. Please tick all options that apply.

Vaccination status

Please use the tick boxes to indicate whether the patient is **currently vaccinated for pneumococcal** (i.e. within the past 5 years).

<p>If 15+ years, does the patient have:</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Chronic heart disease <input type="checkbox"/> Chronic lung disease <i>(tick all that apply)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Diabetes <input type="checkbox"/> Chronic renal failure <input type="checkbox"/> Chronic liver disease <input type="checkbox"/> Impaired immunity (e.g. HIV) <input type="checkbox"/> Tobacco smoker <input type="checkbox"/> None of the above <small>BL162B</small>	<p>Is the patient currently vaccinated for pneumococcal (i.e. in past 5 yrs)?</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	<p>If patient IS VACCINATED, how was the vaccine(s) supplied?</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Free to patient <i>(i.e. Govt supplied)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> PBS subsidised <input type="checkbox"/> Fully privately funded	<p>If patient IS NOT VACCINATED, the reason(s) was: <i>(tick all that apply)</i></p> <input type="checkbox"/> GP assessed patient as not at risk <input type="checkbox"/> Patient objection <input type="checkbox"/> Cost to patient <input type="checkbox"/> Patient disagrees with risk assessment <input type="checkbox"/> Other reason: _____	<p>In the past 12 months, has the patient seen a consumer awareness campaign about pneumococcal disease?</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes _____ <input type="checkbox"/> No	<p>→ If 'YES'...</p> <p>(a) did it prompt the patient to ask a GP about vaccination?</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<p>(b) in what medium was the campaign seen?</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> TV <input type="checkbox"/> Poster (in waiting room) <input type="checkbox"/> Seniors Card <input type="checkbox"/> Other
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