

Childhood Vaccination Subsidy Scheme (13-valent Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV13) booster)

What is Childhood Vaccination Subsidy Scheme (PCV13 booster)?

The Government introduces the Childhood Vaccination Subsidy Scheme (PCV13 booster) (CVSS (PCV13 booster)) to provide subsidized PCV13 booster vaccination to Hong Kong residents aged between 2 to under 5 years old (i.e. born between 26 November 2008 and 30 December 2012) who have never received PCV13 before. The scheme will start from 13 December 2013 until 30 June 2014. Starting from 13 December 2013, eligible children may receive Government subsidy to receive one dose of PCV13 from private doctors enrolled under the Scheme. The Government will provide the PCV13 vaccine for free and reimburse an injection fee of \$50 for each dose of vaccine given to the private doctors through the eHealth System.

Is my child eligible to receive the Government subsidy?

To be eligible for the Government subsidy under CVSS (PCV13 booster), the child must be a Hong Kong resident AND between the age of 2 years to under 5 years old (i.e. born between 26 November 2008 and 30 December 2012) and have never received PCV13.

How much do parents pay for PCV13 booster?

Parents will pay a discounted fee (after deducting the vaccine provided by the Government and the Government subsidy for an injection fee of \$50) to the participating private doctors for PCV13 vaccination service. It is important to note that the fees charged by different private doctors may vary.

To enhance transparency, doctors will display their fees for vaccination on a CVSS (PCV13 booster) poster in the clinic waiting area.

How do parents know which doctors have joined the scheme providing subsidised PCV13 vaccination?

Some private doctors, but not all, will join the CVSS (PCV13 booster). Participating private doctors will display a CVSS (PCV13 booster) logo in their clinics for parents' recognition. In addition, information about doctors who have joined the scheme and still have government supplied vaccines in hand will be uploaded to the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) website (http://www.chp.gov.hk/en/view_content/34667.html).



Logo



Poster

What is the vaccination period for CVSS(PCV13 booster)?

CVSS (PCV13 booster) starts from 13 December 2013 until 30 June 2014. However, for better utilization of resources, enrolled doctors who have not yet used up PCV 13 vaccine supplied by the government may continue to provide subsidized vaccination to eligible children under the Scheme up to 31 May 2015 or until all PCV 13 vaccines supplied by the government have been used up, whichever is earlier.

Do parents need to make an appointment before the vaccination?

You are advised to consult the relevant clinics on the availability of government supplied vaccines first and make an appointment before bringing your child for vaccination.

If the parent is unable to accompany the child personally to the doctor's clinic, can he/she ask a relative / teacher / domestic helper to bring the child there?

Yes. To receive subsidy under CVSS (PCV13 booster), the parent must duly complete and sign a Consent to Use Vaccination Subsidy form (Form No.: DH_CVSSPCV13(CF13/14E)) beforehand. The form is also available at participating doctors' clinics and can be downloaded from the CHP website.

Can my child receive free PCV13 vaccination?

From 2 December 2013, free PCV13 booster doses will be provided for at-risk paediatric patients attending the Hospital Authority's paediatric specialist clinics during their follow-up consultations. The Maternal and Child Health Centres (MCHCs) under the Department of Health will also provide free PCV13 booster dose to eligible children from financially vulnerable families who are recipients of the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme or holders of valid Certificates for Waiver of Medical Charges from the Social Welfare Department.

Steps to take for parents to bring their child to receive subsidised PCV13 vaccination from a private doctor

1. Select a private doctor enrolled in the CVSS (PCV13 booster) and still have government supplied vaccines in hand.
2. Bring along your child's Hong Kong Birth Certificate or Hong Kong Identity Card as a proof of your child's Hong Kong resident status. If your child does not have the above documents, you have to bring along other travel documents that can prove your child's Hong Kong resident status.
3. Bring along all of your child's vaccination record(s) for doctor's reference.
4. Consult the doctor for your child's vaccination(s) and indicate your wish to use the vaccination subsidy.
5. Duly complete and sign the Consent to Use Vaccination Subsidy. If you ask a representative (e.g. relative / teacher / domestic helper) to take the child to the doctor's clinic, you will have to fill in and sign the Consent prior to visiting the doctor's clinic.
6. Staff in the clinic will open an eHealth account for your child / check your child's eHealth account through the eHealth System.
7. Vaccination will be given to your child and the doctor will deduct the Government subsidy directly from the eHealth System.
8. Pay the discounted fee (after deducting the Government subsidy) to the doctor, if any.
9. Keep the vaccination record(s) properly.
10. Staff of the DH may contact you to verify whether your child has received vaccination(s) and used the subsidy.

PROTECT YOUR CHILD FROM INVASIVE PNEUMOCOCCAL DISEASE (IPD)

PCV13 BOOSTER VACCINATION HELPS

What is pneumococcal infection?

Pneumococcal infection represents a wide range of diseases caused by the bacterium *Streptococcus pneumoniae* (*S. pneumoniae* / pneumococcus). More than 90 serotypes have been identified. It can be transmitted by droplet spread and contact with respiratory secretions; direct contact is another way of transmission. Incubation period is usually 1 to 3 days. *S. pneumoniae* causes a wide spectrum of diseases, including:

- meningitis: it is a severe type of pneumococcal infection and usually presents with fever, stiff neck and mental confusion, causing long-term problems, such as hearing loss, or even death;
- pneumonia: it commonly presents with fever, shortness of breath, chills and productive cough, and may result in death in severe cases; and
- otitis media: it presents with fever, ear pain with or without ear discharge, and may lead to hearing loss in recurrent cases.

Is a person previously contracted with pneumococcal disease immune from future diseases caused by pneumococcus?

As there are over 90 serotypes of pneumococcus, previous infection of a particular serotype may not confer immunity to other serotypes of pneumococcus.

How can pneumococcal disease be prevented?

The emergence of drug-resistant pneumococci makes prevention more important. There are effective vaccines to prevent the disease. People should have vaccination as indicated for protection, and maintain hygiene practices to prevent the spread of disease.

What are the components of the 13-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV13)?

PCV13 is a conjugated vaccine which contains purified capsular polysaccharide of thirteen pneumococcal serotypes. The thirteen serotypes covered by PCV13 include 1, 3, 4, 5, 6A, 6B, 7F, 9V, 14, 18C, 19A, 19F, 23F.

Who should NOT get Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccination (PCV)?

This include persons with:

1. History of severe allergy to prior pneumococcal vaccination; or
2. History of severe allergy to vaccine components.

Is pneumococcal vaccine safe?

Pneumococcal vaccines are safe and effective. Most people have no serious reactions after receiving PCV. Occasionally there may be mild fever (usually occur within 3 days after vaccination) or slight redness or swelling around the injection site, but these will gradually subside in a few days. If fever or discomforts persist, please consult a doctor.

How do I know the type of PCV received by my child at Maternal & Child Health Centre (MCHC) of the Department of Health?

If parents wish to know whether the PCV received by their children at MCHC is the 13-valent Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine or not, they should first note the date of receiving those vaccines from the "Immunization Record" & then take note of the following information:

- If the date of receiving the vaccine is on or before 4 December 2011, the Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccines provided at all MCHCs are 7-valent or 10-valent Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine.
- If the date of receiving the vaccine is on or after 5 December 2011, the Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccines provided at all MCHCs are 13-valent Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine.

For more information about the CVSS (PCV13 booster), please visit the Centre for Health Protection website www.chp.gov.hk or call 2125 2125.