

Disclaimer: This algorithm has been developed for MD Anderson using a multidisciplinary approach considering circumstances particular to MD Anderson's specific patient population, services and structure, and clinical information. This is not intended to replace the independent medical or professional judgment of physicians or other health care providers in the context of individual clinical circumstances to determine a patient's care. This algorithm should not be used to treat pregnant women.

APPENDIX A: Vaccine Special Considerations¹

Meningococcal Vaccination	Pneumococcal Vaccination ²	<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b (Hib) Vaccination
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Previously vaccinated with one dose of meningococcal conjugate (Menveo®) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ If ≤ 5 years since 1st dose, administer 2nd dose of series at least 8 weeks after and then administer booster every 5 years thereafter ◦ If ≥ 5 years past 1st dose, repeat 2 dose series and administer booster every 5 years thereafter • Previously vaccinated with one dose of meningococcal type B (Bexsero®) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ If ≤ 3 years since 1st dose, administer 2nd dose of series at least 8 weeks after and then administer a booster 1 year later with subsequent boosters every 2-3 years thereafter ◦ If ≥ 3 years past 1st dose, repeat 2 dose series and administer a booster 1 year after completion of primary series with subsequent boosters every 2-3 years thereafter • Meningococcal conjugate (Menveo®) can be given on the same day as meningococcal type B (Bexsero®) at different anatomical sites • Meningococcal conjugate (Menveo®) and meningococcal type B (Bexsero®) should only be given IM (not subcutaneously) 	<p>Note: Booster doses of PCV20 (Prevnar 20®) are not necessary in patients who have already received a dose</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None or Unknown <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Administer 1 dose of PCV20 • Previously vaccinated with only PPSV23 (Pneumovax 23®) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Administer PCV20 at least 1 year after last PPSV23 dose • Previously vaccinated with PCV13 (Prevnar 13®) but not PPSV23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Administer PCV20 at least 1 year after last PCV13 dose • Previously vaccinated with PCV13 at any age and PPSV23 before age 65 years <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Administer PCV20 at least 5 years after last pneumococcal vaccine dose • Previously vaccinated with PCV13 at any age and PPSV23 at age 65 years or older <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ The decision to administer PCV20 at least ≥ 5 years after last pneumococcal vaccine dose is a shared clinical decision between the patient and the provider 	<p>Booster doses of Hib are not necessary in patients who have already received a dose</p>

PCV13 = pneumococcal 13-valent conjugate vaccine (Prevnar 13®)

PCV20 = pneumococcal 20-valent conjugate vaccine (Prevnar 20®)

PPSV23 = pneumococcal polysaccharide 23-valent vaccine (Pneumovax 23®)

¹ Patients should receive other vaccines per [CDC guidelines](#) (i.e., influenza yearly, Tdap every 10 years, etc.)

² Refer to the [CDC pneumococcal vaccination summary](#) or the [CDC PneumoRecs VaxAdvisor clinical support tool](#) for comprehensive pneumococcal vaccination recommendations

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APPENDIX B: Risk Factors for Infections with Encapsulated Organisms¹ and Relevant Prophylactic Agents

Patients should ideally be counseled on the below points prior to and after the procedure/chemotherapy. Family members of affected patients should ensure compliance with vaccines per CDC guidelines.

Travel considerations² and animal exposures:

- Visit health care provider or travel clinic 4-12 weeks prior to travel
 - Care must be taken in areas where malaria is endemic (*e.g.*, tropical regions such as sub-Saharan Africa) or where outbreaks of meningococcal disease occur
 - Avoid tick bites and areas where babesiosis is endemic (*e.g.*, upper Midwest United States and coastal New England)
- Animal bites should be immediately attended to, particularly dog bites (*Capnocytophaga canimorsus*)

Prophylaxis recommendations

Consider prophylaxis for high-risk patients:

- Hematologic malignancy patients with anatomic or functional asplenia/hyposplenia awaiting or with incomplete vaccination
- Prolonged prophylaxis independent of vaccination status may be pursued on a case-by-case basis:
 - Hematopoietic stem cell transplant patients on therapeutic immunosuppressants for cGVHD
 - For details refer to Stem Cell Transplantation SOP "GC2.6 Vaccination Guidelines"
- Patients with history of sepsis with encapsulated organism
- High-risk patients should be cautioned to seek medical attention for any febrile illness

Preferred regimens:

- Oral penicillin V potassium (250 mg - 500 mg twice daily) or amoxicillin (500 mg twice daily)
 - Second line - cephalosporins (*e.g.*, cephalexin 250 mg twice daily) are reasonable alternatives that may be tolerated by patients with mild non-IgE-mediated reactions to penicillin
 - Third line - fluoroquinolones (*e.g.*, levofloxacin 500 mg daily) are less studied alternatives for patients with contraindications to penicillin or cephalosporins
- Can consider providing an emergency supply for high-risk patients not receiving prophylaxis to be used at onset of fever or infectious symptoms

¹ The most common vaccine-preventable infections in patients without a spleen are caused by the following encapsulated organisms: *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, *Neisseria meningitidis*, and *Haemophilus influenzae*

² Refer to [CDC website on travelers' health](#) for guidance on travel considerations and vaccine prophylaxis

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APPENDIX C: Administration of Vaccines to Patients with Increased Risk of Bleeding

Patients at risk of bleeding/hematoma from IM injections:

- Thrombocytopenic (platelets < 30 K/microliter)
- Receiving anticoagulation
 - IM injections should be avoided in patients on warfarin with elevated INR (>4)
- Hemophilia
- Von Willebrand disease

Successful administration of certain IM vaccines has been accomplished in hemophilia patients with the following techniques:

- Use a 23 or 25-gauge needle (25-gauge is smaller and preferred if available) for vaccine administration
- Apply pressure to site of vaccination for two minutes afterwards
 - Do **not** rub or massage the site

CDC guidance:

- Patients on anticoagulation therapy presumably have a similar bleeding risk as patients with clotting disorders so providers should follow the same guidelines for IM administration
- When IM vaccine is indicated for a patient with bleeding disorder, the vaccine should be administered if physician familiar with patient's bleeding risk determines IM route is reasonably safe
- Prior to administration of IM vaccine, patient and family should be informed of the risk of hematoma formation
- CDC discourages deviation from the recommended vaccine route, site, or dose for any vaccine since this can lead to reduced protection and increase the risk of an exaggerated local reaction

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This practice consensus statement is based on majority opinion of the Asplenia Management workgroup at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center for the patient population. These experts included:

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