

## Cochlear Implants and pneumococcal disease

Young children and those with **high risk medical conditions, including cochlear implants**, are among the most susceptible to pneumococcal infection and severe disease.

Pneumococcal disease can cause illness ranging from ear and sinus infection to severe pneumonia (lung infection), life-threatening sepsis (blood stream infection) and/or meningitis (infection of the lining of the brain). It is caused by bacteria called *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, more commonly known as pneumococcus. Immunisation is a safe and effective way to reduce the risk of severe pneumococcal infections.

### Who should be immunised?

**All children** are recommended to receive the pneumococcal vaccine as part of the standard WA Immunisation schedule at 2, 4 and 12 months of age with Prevenar13, along with the recommended scheduled vaccines. **Children who are planning for or already have a cochlear implant** require **additional pneumococcal vaccines, given their increased risk**, as listed below:

NAME:

DATE OF BIRTH:

**1<sup>st</sup> Prevenar13 vaccine:** For children under 12 months of age ensure three doses are given **AND** for those 12 months or older, an additional 4<sup>th</sup> dose is to be given

Date given: ..... Date given: ..... Date given: ..... Date given: .....

**2<sup>nd</sup> Pneumovax23 vaccine (Dose 1):** Given at 4 years of age **OR** if older than 4 years, give at least 2 months after receiving the last dose of Prevenar13

Date given: .....

**3<sup>rd</sup> Pneumovax23 vaccine (Dose 2):** Given 5 years after first Pneumovax23

Date given: .....

**4<sup>th</sup> Pneumovax23 vaccine (Dose 3):** Given 10 years after second Pneumovax23

Date given: .....

### Where can my children receive these recommended immunisations?

Bring this health fact sheet to your local immunisation provider or GP. Alternatively, visit the PCH Immunisation Drop-in Centre, located on Level 1, clinic area D, Monday to Friday 8.30am to 12pm and 1pm to 4pm. **This immunisation service is free of charge, with no appointment or referral required.** Email [PCH.ImmunisationCentre@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:PCH.ImmunisationCentre@health.wa.gov.au) or phone 6456 2222 for further advice.

This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with a disability.

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