

Inactivated Influenza/Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Vaccine Immunization Screening Questions

1. Have you had any problems with previous flu vaccines?
2. Do you have any severe life-threatening allergies to the following: a previous dose of vaccine or a component of the vaccine
3. Do you have a disease/treatment which lowers your immunity?
4. Do you have a severe bleeding disorder?
5. Do you have any questions?

- 1 Influenza vaccines are contraindicated if client has a history of GBS* within 8 weeks following a previous dose of influenza vaccine. Other previous problems can include: ORS, fainting, soreness, pain management, etc., but are not considered contraindications.
*Guillain-Barré syndrome is a disorder in which the body's immune system attacks part of the peripheral nervous system.
- 2 Check specific contraindications for each type of vaccine.
 - A client cannot be offered vaccine today if they have a contraindication to the vaccine(s).
 - Client should consult their doctor or allergy specialist regarding any history of severe allergies to a vaccine or to a vaccine component. Local reactions are not contraindications. **Egg allergy, including anaphylaxis to eggs is NOT a contraindication** to receiving any influenza vaccine.
 - Live and inactivated influenza vaccines can be administered in any setting which follows standard vaccine administration practices.
- 3 Pneumococcal vaccination should be administered **at least 2 weeks** prior to the initiation of immunosuppressive therapy if at all possible, but can be offered to persons receiving long term immune suppressive medication.
New contraindications 2018: To ensure that patients with cancer and/or on treatment receive appropriate influenza immunization advice, please refer to: [BC Cancer Influenza Vaccine Guideline](#).
- 4 Intramuscular vaccines should be given with caution to individuals with bleeding disorders (i.e., hemophilia or on anticoagulant therapy). To avoid the risk of hematoma apply firm pressure to the immunization site **x 5 minutes post injection**. Administer pneumococcal vaccine via SC route for clients with a history of bleeding disorders.