

## **INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS RECEIVING THE PNEUMOCOCCAL VACCINE**

The pneumococcal vaccine helps protect against serious illnesses like pneumonia and meningitis. It's recommended for people at higher risk of these illnesses, such as babies and adults aged 65 and over.

For more information, use the following link - <https://www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/pneumococcal-vaccine/>

### **IT IS IMPORTANT YOU READ THIS INFORMATION PRIOR TO VACCINATION**

You **should not** have either vaccine at this time if you have any of the following:

- Flu like symptoms with fever
- Previous allergic reaction to any vaccine
- Impaired immune system

### **FOLLOWING VACCINATION**

Any side effects from your vaccination are likely to occur within the first 12 - 24 hours of the vaccine being given and usually resolve after 72 hours from onset.

#### **Most common side effects**

- If you get a fever or develop flu like symptoms you should drink plenty of fluids and take regular doses of Paracetamol (2 tablets 4 times daily), rest, avoid alcohol and strenuous exercise until the symptoms pass.
- Minor local reactions at the injection site such as muscle pain, tenderness, swelling or bruising may occur. If troublesome apply a cold compress / flannel to the area.
- Please be aware that you cannot get the flu directly as a result of this vaccination.
- If your symptoms persist for more than 48 hours after the injection, please contact the Health Centre for advice.

#### **Rare side effects**

With all vaccinations there is a possibility of an allergic reaction. This is very rare.

##### **Symptoms:**

- Difficulty breathing
- Swelling of lips, face, neck or tongue
- Itchiness and red or pale skin
- Dizziness and fainting

If any of the above occurs and you are in the Health Centre, please tell a member of staff.

**If the above happens when you have left the Health Centre, PLEASE SEEK MEDICAL HELP IMMEDIATELY**