

## Updates on VSS and RVP 2017/18

The Vaccination Subsidy Scheme (VSS) and Residential Care Home Vaccination Programme (RVP) **2017/18** will commence in October/ November 2017.

### A. VSS 2017/18

The Government will provide vaccination subsidy to the following eligible groups:

#### 1. Seasonal Influenza Vaccination

- (i) Pregnant women;
- (ii) Children aged 6 months to under 12 years of age or still studying in Hong Kong primary schools;
- (iii) Elderly reaching the age of 65 at the year of vaccination;
- (iv) Persons with intellectual disability (PID)
  - (a) Registration Card for People with Disabilities (with indication of intellectual disability); or
  - (b) a medical certificate certify the person is a person with intellectual disability and eligible for vaccination subsidy under VSS 2017/18; or
  - (c) a certificate issued by the person-in-charge of designated PID institution that the person(s) concerned is/are user(s) of the PID institution;
- (v) Persons receiving Disability allowance (DA) who are holders of the approval letter for disability allowance issued by the Social Welfare Department.

The subsidy is \$190 per dose. Both trivalent and quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccines are continued to be recommended for use in Hong Kong in 2017/18 season and are eligible for claiming vaccination subsidy.

#### 2. Pneumococcal Vaccination

- (i) Community-living elderly aged 65 years or above **without** high-risk conditions#
  - who **have no** pneumococcal vaccination before, one dose of 23-valent pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (23vPPV) should be given.
- (ii) Community-living elderly aged 65 years or above **with** high-risk conditions#
  - who **have no** pneumococcal vaccination before, one dose of 13-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV13) should be given followed by one dose of 23vPPV one year later.

- who ***have already*** received one dose of 23vPPV before, one dose of PCV13 should be given one year after the 23vPPV.
- who ***have both*** 23vPPV and PCV13 given before, no further subsidized pneumococcal vaccination to be given.

(iii) The subsidy for 23vPPV is \$190 per dose.

(iv) The subsidy for PCV 13 is \$730 per dose (for elderly with high-risk conditions). The Government had also discussed with the Drug Company for a lowered vaccine price for vaccination under the VSS.

## **B. RVP 2017/18**

### **1. Seasonal Influenza Vaccination**

The arrangement for RVP 2017/18 will be similar to that in 2016/17. The eligible groups for free seasonal influenza vaccination under RVP are as follows:

- (i) Residents, boarders and staff of the Residential Care Homes for the Elderly (RCHEs) and Residential Care Homes for Persons with Disabilities (RCHDs); and
- (ii) Service users of designated PID institutions (designated day centres, sheltered workshops and special schools)

### **2. Pneumococcal Vaccination**

Eligible residents of RCHEs and residents aged 65 or above in RCHDs are also entitled to free 23vPPV and PCV13 if they have not received the vaccine(s) before.

The Government will deliver vaccines to residential care homes (RCHs) and designated institutions where Visiting Medical Officers (VMOs) invited by the RCHs and designated institutions will administer the vaccination to eligible recipients. HK\$50 per dose of injections fee will be provided to the VMOs.

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# High-risk conditions include:

- History of invasive pneumococcal disease, cerebrospinal fluid leakage or cochlear implant;
- Chronic cardiovascular (except hypertension without complication), lung, liver or kidney diseases;
- Metabolic diseases including diabetes mellitus or obesity (Body Mass Index 30 or above);
- Immunocompromised states related to weakened immune system due to conditions such as asplenia, Human Immunodeficiency Virus/ Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome or cancer/ steroid treatment;
- Chronic neurological conditions that can compromise respiratory functions or the handling of respiratory secretions or increase the risk for aspiration, or those who lack the ability to take care of themselves.