

## Updates on VSS in 2023/24

The Vaccination Subsidy Scheme (VSS) 2023/24 will commence around October 2023. From VSS 2023/24 onwards, doctors newly enrolled and currently enrolled in VSS must use purpose-built vaccine refrigerators (PBVR) for vaccine storage. For further details regarding vaccine storage under VSS, please refer to Chapter 6 of the VSS Doctor's Guide – Requirements on vaccine storage and handling under VSS: [https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/vssdg\\_ch6\\_vaccine\\_storage\\_and\\_handling.pdf](https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/vssdg_ch6_vaccine_storage_and_handling.pdf).

The Government will provide subsidies to enrolled doctors for the following vaccinations administered to the corresponding eligible groups:

### **1. Seasonal Influenza Vaccination (SIV)**

#### Eligible groups

For vaccinations at **clinics**, eligible groups are Hong Kong residents who are –

- (i) Persons reaching the age of 50 to under 65 at the year of vaccination;
- (ii) Elderly reaching the age of 65 at the year of vaccination;
- (iii) Children and adolescents aged 6 months to under 18 years of age or still studying in Hong Kong secondary schools;
- (iv) Pregnant women;
- (v) Persons with intellectual disability (PID) who are holders of
  - (a) Registration Card for People with Disabilities (with indication of intellectual disability); or
  - (b) a medical certificate certifying that the person is a person with intellectual disability and eligible for vaccination subsidy under VSS 2023/24; or
  - (c) a certificate issued by the person-in-charge of designated PID institution certifying that the person(s) concerned is/are user(s) of the PID institution;
- (vi) Persons receiving Disability Allowance (DA) who are holders of the approval letter for Disability Allowance issued by the Social Welfare Department.
- (vii) Persons receiving standard rate of “100% disabled” or “requiring constant attendance” under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (“CSSA”) Scheme of the Social Welfare Department who are holders of
  - (a) Certificate of CSSA Recipients (for Medical Waivers) which was issued before 15 December 2018; or
  - (b) The new Annex page of “Notification of Successful Application”/ “Notification of Revision of Assistance” ;
 and sign the Self-Declaration Form for Standard Rate of 100% Disabled or Requiring Constant Attendance under CSSA Scheme.

For vaccinations at **non-clinic settings**, eligible groups include –

- (i) The categories (i) to (vii) above.
- (ii) **For vaccination activities held in secondary schools, primary schools and kindergartens/ child care centres**, school children of participating schools who are aged 6 months to under 18 years of age or still studying in Hong Kong secondary schools, regardless of their Hong Kong resident status, are also eligible.

Subsidy

- (i) The subsidy for SIV to all the above eligible groups is \$260 per dose.
- (ii) Inactivated influenza vaccines (IIV), Recombinant influenza vaccines (RIV) and live attenuated influenza vaccines (LAIV) can be used under VSS, and their subsidy levels are the same.
- (iii) The subsidy levels for SIV are the same for vaccinations delivered in clinics, or non-clinic settings.

**2. Pneumococcal Vaccination (PV)**

Eligible groups

- (i) Community-living elderly aged 65 years or above **without** high-risk conditions<sup>i</sup>
  - if **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
  - if **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 after.
  - if **have already** received one dose of 23vPPV before, one dose of PCV13 should be given one year after the 23vPPV vaccination.
  - if **have already** received one dose of PCV13 before, one dose of 23vPPV should be given one year after the PCV13 vaccination.
  - if **have both** 23vPPV and PCV13 given before, no further subsidised pneumococcal vaccination to be given.

Subsidy

- (i) The subsidy for 23vPPV is \$400 per dose.
- (ii) The subsidy for PCV13 is \$800 per dose. (There is only one brand of PCV13 which has been registered for sale in Hong Kong and the company supplying that brand agrees to offer it to the doctor at a net price of \$660 per dose for administration under the VSS.)
- (iii) The subsidy for 23vPPV and PCV13 are the same for vaccinations delivered in clinics, or non-clinic settings.

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<sup>i</sup> 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.