January 13, 2014

Q: There appears to be some confusion with regard to the timeframes for giving long term care residents the pneumococcal vaccine. What exactly does the CDC recommend with regard to pneumococcal vaccination timelines?

A: The current federal CDC recommendations for the pneumococcal vaccine can be found here (click here). In summary, the federal CDC guidelines state:

1) All persons should be vaccinated with PPSV23 at age 65 years.
2) Those who have received PPSV23 before age 65 years for any indication, should receive another dose of the vaccine at age 65 or later if at least 5 years have passed since their previous dose.
   Those who receive PPSV23 at or after age 65 years should receive only a single dose.