23-valent Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Vaccine

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued interim guidance describing which groups should be vaccinated with the 23-valent pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPSV23) to prevent pneumococcal infections during the novel influenza A (H1N1) pandemic.

Guidance:
According to the CDC the following recommendations should be followed regarding PPSV23 vaccination:

♦ Universal vaccination all adults 65 years of age and older.
♦ Persons aged 2 through 64 years who have one or more of the following long-term health problems:
  ◇ Chronic cardiovascular disease (congestive heart failure and cardiomyopathies)
  ◇ Chronic pulmonary disease including chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and emphysema
  ◇ Diabetes mellitus
  ◇ Alcoholism
  ◇ Chronic liver disease, including cirrhosis
  ◇ Cerebrospinal fluid leaks
  ◇ Functional or anatomic asplenia including sickle cell disease and splenectomy
  ◇ Immunocompromising conditions including HIV infection, leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease, multiple myeloma, generalized malignancy, chronic renal failure, nephrotic syndrome
  ◇ Those receiving immunosuppressive chemotherapy (including corticosteroids)
  ◇ Those who have received an organ or bone marrow transplant
♦ Persons aged 19 through 64 years who:
  ◇ Smoke cigarettes
  ◇ Have asthma

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