

Preventing Pneumonia?

The vaccine to help prevent pneumonia is another important part of preventative health. Pneumococcal disease accounts for about 15% of severe pneumonia caused by bacteria in our community. Persons less than 5 years old or greater than 65, nursing home residents, alcoholics, and those with chronic medical conditions or immune system disorders are at a higher risk for developing pneumococcal diseases, including pneumonia. The emergence of bacteria that are resistant to “usual” drug therapies has emphasized the importance of preventing pneumococcal disease by vaccination, especially for those already at a higher risk. Research suggests that the vaccine lasts for five years after immunization. For complete CDC guidelines for the pneumococcal vaccine, come into Homer Drug Co. or Tiger Town Pharmacy and speak to one of our friendly pharmacists.