

DISCUSSING VACCINATION WITH PATIENTS LIVING WITH DIABETES

Getting the flu vaccine is especially crucial for individuals with diabetes, as they are at a higher risk of developing severe complications from the flu due to their compromised immune systems

PHARMACISTS SHOULD HIGHLIGHT THE FOLLOWING MESSAGES TO PATIENTS WITH DIABETES

- Individuals with diabetes are at higher risk of severe complications and death from vaccine-preventable respiratory diseases such as flu, or pneumococcal pneumonia because these conditions can lead to uncontrolled blood sugar levels.
- Even when a person's diabetes is well managed, some physiological factors such as inflammation or blood pressure can create an environment in the body that makes it harder for the immune system to effectively fight infections.
- People living with diabetes can especially benefit from being vaccinated because some diseases will have a direct impact on blood sugar levels, and a sustained status of uncontrolled glycemia can worsen the condition.

INFLUENZA VACCINATION

- Influenza is an aggravating factor for diabetes. People living with diabetes are three times more likely to be hospitalised in case of flu and are six times more like to die from a flu infection compared with people without diabetes
- Influenza vaccination is associated with reduced cardiovascular mortality in adults with all types of diabetes

OTHER VACCINES & INFORMATION

- Diabetes increases the risk of acquiring pneumonia and invasive pneumococcal disease and increases the risk of morbidity and mortality from pneumococcal infection.
- All adolescents and adults should receive a Tdap vaccine booster every 10 years after completing the primary vaccination schedule in childhood