

DISCUSSING VACCINATION WITH OLDER ADULTS

PHARMACISTS SHOULD HIGHLIGHT THE FOLLOWING MESSAGES TO OLDER ADULTS:

- The immune system weakens with age, making individuals vulnerable to more frequent and more severe infectious illnesses.
- Older adults struggle to recover from illnesses more than younger people do.

INFLUENZA VACCINATION

- Influenza is a major cause of lower respiratory infection and hospitalisations in older adults
- Nearly one in four older adults hospitalised with influenza experience functional decline.
- Flu complications can include pneumonia, heart attack or stroke, and worsening of existing diseases like diabetes or heart disease.

OTHER VACCINES

- Pneumonia disproportionately affects individuals older than 65 years and those with underlying medical conditions, who often experience high rates of hospitalisations and mortality.
- Older adults are three times as likely to die from COVID-19 than young adults.
- Older adults are at an increased risk of developing complications from pertussis (whooping cough), so it is recommended that all adults should receive a Tdap adult booster every 10 years after completing the primary vaccination schedule