

DISCUSSING VACCINATION WITH PATIENTS LIVING WITH CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASES

PHARMACISTS SHOULD HIGHLIGHT THE FOLLOWING MESSAGES TO PATIENTS WITH CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASES

- Individuals with cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) are at higher risk of severe complications and death from vaccine-preventable illnesses.'
- Vaccine-preventable diseases may lead to damage of the heart and thromboembolisms, leading to disease progression.?
- Non-vaccination increases the risk of developing secondary infections that may lead to permanent heart damage.

INFLUENZA VACCINATION

- Flu can trigger a heart attack or stroke: in the few days following flu infection, the risk of a heart attack in adults is 10 times higher, and the risk of stroke is eight times higher. Influenza vaccination can reduce this risk by 15-45%.
- Influenza can cause other severe complications like pneumonia, chronic condition worsening or general functional decline.
- People with heart disease are far more likely to suffer from severe influenza which can lead to severe complications, hospitalisations, and deaths.

OTHER VACCINES

- Around 30% of patients admitted to hospital with pneumococcal disease will experience a major adverse cardiovascular event, including new or worsening heart failure, new or worsening arrhythmia, or myocardial infarction.
- All adolescents and adults should receive a Tdap vaccine booster every 10 years after completing the primary vaccination schedule in childhood.