



March 2017

PNEUMOCOCCAL DISEASE VACCINATION – INFORMATION FOR COCHLEAR IMPLANT CANDIDATES AND RECIPIENTS

This information sheet is provided by the Southern Cochlear Implant Programme for cochlear implant candidates, recipients, and their families.

We wish to bring to the attention of all cochlear implant recipients the following;

- Any inner ear surgery carries with it a small risk of **pneumococcal disease**, particularly in the first 30 days following surgery
- The risk of **pneumococcal disease** is slightly higher for cochlear implant recipients and for those with congenital malformations of the inner ear
- In order to reduce the small risk of **pneumococcal disease** we recommend that all cochlear implant recipients be routinely vaccinated
- Vaccination should be undertaken at least **14 days** prior to surgery; if you are not able to undertake vaccination in this timeframe then vaccination should be undertaken as soon as practicable after surgery

It is also recommended that you receive a **Hib vaccination** and an **Influenza vaccination**.

We have prepared a letter that you can take to your General Practitioner, who will be able to administer the necessary vaccinations. In many cases the vaccinations are free; your GP can discuss this with you.

Please contact the Southern Cochlear Implant Programme if you have any further questions or concerns.