



## **Vaccination Incentive Program (VIP) Frequently Asked Questions**

### **1. What is the Vaccination Incentive Program (VIP)?**

The Vaccination Incentive Program is designed to encourage all Advanced Bionics cochlear implant recipients to get the pneumococcal vaccine due to increased health risk in cochlear implant recipients. Since cochlear implant patients 18 years of age and younger are more vulnerable because they cannot initiate this action on their own, we are encouraging their parents or legal guardians to act with urgency in getting the pneumococcal vaccine. Therefore, Advanced Bionics is providing a \$100 award to parents or guardians of children 18 years of age and younger with Advanced Bionics cochlear implants for each completed pneumococcal meningitis vaccination series for up to a maximum of \$300, in addition to covering unreimbursed expenses for getting the vaccine.

### **2. Where can I get more information about the vaccines and associated risk?**

[www.Bionicear.com](http://www.Bionicear.com) or hotline at (866) 481-5616.

### **3. Why is Advanced Bionics offering this program now?**

The Medical Device Sub-committee of The American Academy of Otolaryngology and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) both stress the importance of vaccination in preventing pneumococcal meningitis in cochlear implant users. Because there are vaccines available that greatly reduce the likelihood of contracting pneumococcal meningitis, Advanced Bionics is initiating the Vaccination Incentive Program (VIP) aimed at raising awareness of the importance of vaccination in preventing pneumococcal meningitis and getting all Advanced Bionics cochlear implant users vaccinated. This is an effort we are passionate about and believe is the right thing to do for our patients. We will reimburse Advanced Bionics patients for direct costs of vaccines not covered by health insurance. Additionally, we will offer a \$100 award payment to parents or guardians of each Advanced Bionics recipient 18 years old and younger who can provide evidence of appropriate vaccination. This is the first step of the VIP to remind all cochlear implant users about the importance of vaccination.

### **4. What vaccinations does the program cover?**

The program covers the pneumococcal vaccines (Pneumovax® 23-valent or equivalent and Prevnar® 7-valent or equivalent).

### **5. Why are children 18 years and younger included in the VIP and not adults? Why is Advanced Bionics not giving adult cochlear implant (CI) recipients an incentive?**

Vaccination is important for every CI recipient, but children are especially at an elevated risk, in part because they cannot act for themselves to get vaccinated. Therefore, we wanted to find a way to increase awareness, stress the importance and make it easier for parents to get their child vaccinated.

- 6. Does VIP replace the program that reimburses adults and children for uncovered costs of vaccination?**  
No, Advanced Bionics will continue to cover direct costs of pneumococcal vaccines (Prevnar® 7-valent or equivalent and Pneumovax® 23-valent or equivalent) not reimbursed by health insurance for adults and children.
- 7. Will Advanced Bionics continue to cover unreimbursed cost of vaccination for adults?**  
Yes, Advanced Bionics will continue to cover unreimbursed costs of pneumococcal vaccines (Pneumovax® 23-valent or equivalent) for adults.
- 8. How do I get reimbursed?**  
You need to complete the Vaccination Certificate Form. This single, simple form covers both adults and children for reimbursement of uncovered costs of vaccine when submitted with a receipt from your healthcare provider documenting your out-of-pocket expense or an explanation of benefit provided by your health plan. If you meet the eligibility requirements for the Vaccination Incentive Program (VIP), you will receive an additional \$100 award payment in addition to the non-reimbursed expense of the vaccine.
- 9. My child has received both the Prevnar series prior to age 2 and the one dose of Pneumovax when he turned 2 years- do I get the incentive payment for both vaccinations?**  
Yes, provided you submit a completed Vaccination Certificate Form evidencing both vaccination series, you will receive a \$200 award payment as part of the VIP.
- 10. Is the VIP for recipients of Advanced Bionics implants exclusively?**  
Yes, the VIP is exclusively for recipients of Advanced Bionics cochlear implants.
- 11. How do I know if I or my child has had the vaccination?**  
Contact your primary care doctor or pediatrician.
- 12. Where do I get the vaccination?**  
These vaccinations are generally provided by your primary care physician or pediatrician, not your ENT or otologist.
- 13. How successful is the vaccination?**  
Our medical counsel feels strongly that the Pneumovax® 23-valent or equivalent vaccination is successful; hence we are pursuing the awareness and VIP for our patients.
- 14. Is pneumococcal meningitis only a concern for Advanced Bionics cochlear implant recipients?**  
NO, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and American Academy of Otolaryngology (AAO) stress the importance for ALL cochlear implant recipients to get vaccinated. The recent CDC studies demonstrate that all cochlear implant recipients are at an increased risk of contracting pneumococcal meningitis. Yet, unfortunately some recipients still do not get vaccinated and that can lead to life threatening risk. The new VIP is Advanced Bionics' effort to make recipients and candidates aware of the importance of vaccination, remove barriers and make the process as easy as possible for recipients.