

## Individuals with Neurologic Disorders

For the purposes of immunization, people with neurologic disorders may be divided into two categories: those with a pre-existing neurologic condition and those who developed symptoms of a new neurologic condition following immunization.

### Pre-existing Neurologic Conditions

Recommended vaccines for individuals with pre-existing neurologic conditions <sup>A</sup>	
All routine vaccines	Immunize according to routine schedule.
Influenza vaccine	Yearly immunization of those adults and children $\geq$ 6 months of age whose neurologic condition compromises clearance of respiratory secretions.
Pneumococcal vaccine	Pneumococcal polysaccharide and/or conjugate vaccine (depending on age) for those with chronic neurological conditions that may impair clearance of oral secretions.

Disorders that usually begin in infancy (e.g., cerebral palsy, spina bifida, seizure disorder, neuromuscular diseases, and inborn errors of metabolism) may have symptoms identified before administration of the routine infant vaccines.

Other disorders often appear later in childhood or adulthood (e.g., autism spectrum disorders, acute demyelinating encephalomyelitis, transverse myelitis, multiple sclerosis, and Guillain-Barré syndrome) and may appear coincidentally before or after administration of vaccines. There has been no causal relationship identified between any routine immunizations and autism spectrum disorders or demyelinating disorders such as multiple sclerosis.

Neurologic conditions whose onset clearly precedes immunization are not contraindications to subsequent immunization.

### Those Who Develop Symptoms of a New Neurologic Condition at Any Time after Immunization

Neurologic events that occur in the 8 weeks following immunization are said to be temporally associated with immunization. This temporal association alone is not evidence that the vaccine caused the neurologic condition.

Children who experience hypotonic-hyporesponsive events or prolonged crying after receiving vaccine(s) may receive the next dose of vaccine according to schedule.

Individuals who develop encephalopathy or encephalitis within 7 days following immunization should be investigated. Continue to immunize according to routine schedule those individuals whose condition is found to have a different etiology and those who recover fully by the next scheduled immunization.

<sup>A</sup> For specific vaccine schedule information, refer to [Part 4 - Biological Products](#).

## **Individuals with Neurologic Disorders**

Individuals with encephalopathy that persists and who have no alternative etiology should be referred to a specialist for further consultation. Continue with routine immunization schedule if their condition is stable and found not to relate to immunization.

### **Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS)**

Individuals who developed GBS within 8 weeks of a previous dose of tetanus toxoid or influenza vaccine should not be re-immunized with that product. Individuals who have developed GBS outside this interval or who have a different etiology confirmed may receive subsequent doses of tetanus and/or influenza vaccines.