### Infectious Diseases

Infectious diseases (eg, influenza, *Streptococcus pneumoniae* infection, and hepatitis B). People with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) living in group residential settings are at a higher risk of developing such infections but have lower rates of immunization and screening compared to those in the general population. People with IDD are at a greater risk for developing chronic, invasive, and life-threatening forms of infections because of factors such as increased infectious sources, compromised immunity, inability to report symptoms, and absence of fever and other signs of infection. They are also at greater risk of not having these infections detected promptly.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommendation</th>
<th>Types of Knowledge</th>
<th>Recommendation Strength</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Include patients with IDD in routine immunization programs targeting high-risk populations for influenza and <em>S pneumoniae</em> infections.</td>
<td>Empirical, Ecosystem, Expert, Experiential</td>
<td>✅ ✅</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offer Hepatitis A and B immunization to all at-risk patients, such as those who require long-term, potentially hepatotoxic medications or who live in group residential settings.</td>
<td>Empirical, Ecosystem, Expert, Experiential</td>
<td>✅ ✅</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Screen patients for infectious diseases according to guidelines for high-risk populations and other special risk factors (eg, group residence, sexual practices, IV drug use).</td>
<td>Empirical, Expert</td>
<td>✅</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduce risk factors for invasive lung infections, such as by supporting safe feeding practices, positioning to enable secretion clearance, and respiratory therapy.</td>
<td>Expert</td>
<td>✅</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If a patient manifests changes in behaviour or mental status, perform a head-to-toe examination to detect infection. Alert caregivers to signs and symptoms of infections.</td>
<td>Expert</td>
<td>✅</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Icon Legend**

**Recommendation Strength:**
- ⬠ Clinicians' top recommendation
- ✅ Recommended
- ✅ ✅ Strongly Recommended

**Types of Knowledge:**
- Blue and grey colours specify different knowledge subtypes. Half circle symbols indicate that reviewed publications pertain to the background information to the recommendations that is presented in the first column.

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References


Icon Legend

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