

Fact Sheet: Vaccines

Background:

Vaccines play an important role in helping protect individuals and communities from vaccine preventable diseases. For people living with autoimmune and autoinflammatory diseases, decisions about vaccinations are often complex and should be made in partnership with their healthcare providers.

Recently, federal vaccine recommendations have changed or become less clear for certain populations. As recommendations evolve, patients may face uncertainty about which vaccines are recommended for them, whether their insurance will continue to cover them, and how changing policies will affect access to preventive care.

Patients deserve protected access to recommended vaccines.

People living with autoimmune and autoinflammatory diseases often have an increased risk of serious infections because of their underlying condition or the medications used to manage their disease. Vaccination decisions require careful consideration of disease activity, immune status, medication timing, and individual risk factors. When vaccine recommendations become unclear or change unexpectedly, patients may experience uncertainty about which vaccines are appropriate for them and delays in receiving preventive care. Also, changing vaccine recommendations can impact insurance coverage challenges or increase out-of-pocket costs which can lead to difficulty accessing vaccines.

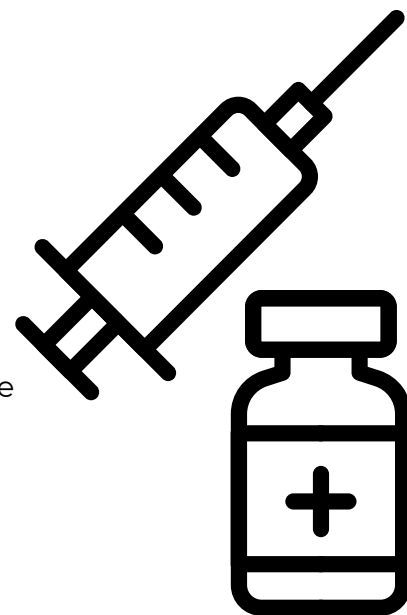
AiArthritis believes patients should continue to have full access to vaccines recommended by their healthcare team. Patients should not lose coverage or access because of changing federal recommendations or evolving policy decisions.

What can be done?

Patients and caregivers can learn about vaccines and share their experiences with healthcare providers, policymakers, and patient advocacy organizations. Patients deserve clear and evidence-based information, consistent access to preventive care, and coverage for vaccines recommended by their healthcare providers. Connecting with AiArthritis is another way to stay informed and ensure patient experiences help shape healthcare policy. We don't represent the patient voice, we are the patient voice.

In conclusion

Vaccination decisions are personal and should be made through decision-making between patients and their healthcare providers. As vaccine recommendations continue to evolve, patients deserve clear guidance, uninterrupted access, and affordable insurance coverage for vaccines that are appropriate for their individual health needs. AiArthritis supports policies that protect patient access to preventive care, preserve decision-making, and ensure insurance coverage does not become a barrier to reducing infection risk. Protecting access to recommended vaccines benefits not only individual patients but also the health of our broader communities by helping avoid the spread of preventable diseases.



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