

From protection to prevention: the power of immunizing people living with **diabetes**



Diabetes has a significant impact on individuals, health systems, and economies:

There are **830 million people** living with diabetes worldwide.¹

Diabetes and related illness cause over **2 million deaths** per year.¹

Diabetes is projected to cost the global economy as much as **USD 2.5 trillion** between 2015 and 2030.²



Respiratory infections pose a higher risk for people living with diabetes:

For people with diabetes, respiratory infections can trigger a **spike in blood sugar levels**, which may require hospitalization.^{3,4}

People with diabetes are **twice as likely to die** from influenza than people with no underlying condition.⁴

People living with diabetes are more than **four times more likely** to develop **pneumococcal disease** than those without diabetes.⁵



Immunization can help protect people living with diabetes:

One study found that people living with diabetes who received a seasonal flu vaccine were **66% less likely** to need flu-related **medical care**.⁶

Pneumococcal immunizations are associated with a **reduced risk of hospitalization or death** for people living with diabetes.⁷



The
Health Policy
Partnership

This document is one of four disease-specific infographics that accompany *From protection to prevention: the power of immunizing people living with non-communicable diseases*, a policy report initiated and funded by the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations (IFPMA). The Health Policy Partnership (HPP) led the research and drafting of the project outputs with insights from expert contributors.



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Immunization against respiratory infections can mitigate the impact of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as diabetes. These four policy priorities are a path to protect people, health systems, and economies:



Enable innovation

Ensure immunization is at the core of essential NCD care by embedding it into NCD care pathways, and by using innovative outreach and delivery models.



Mobilize investment

Ensure efficient allocation of existing prevention budgets to expand data-driven investment in immunizations for adults living with NCDs.



Drive implementation

Build awareness of the importance of immunization among people living with NCDs by providing clear, trusted information. Prepare healthcare professionals to provide consistent and proactive messaging on vaccinations. Ensure people with NCDs have access to immunization.



Ensure accountability

Establish good governance of immunization programs, and embed indicators on immunization in national NCD frameworks. Use integrated data systems to monitor progress and support data-sharing across care settings.

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