

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

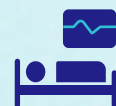


CVDs have a significant impact on individuals, health systems, and economies:

There are more than **612 million people** living with CVDs worldwide.²

Almost **18 million people die** each year due to CVDs.¹

Annual economic costs due to CVDs have been estimated at **EUR 282 billion** in the European Union and **USD 627 billion** in the United States.^{3,4}



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

COVID-19 can **increase the risk** of someone with CVD experiencing an **acute cardiac event** (such as a heart attack or stroke) by almost three times.⁵

People living with CVDs are almost **10 times more likely** to develop **pneumococcal disease** – which can lead to severe illnesses such as pneumonia – than people without CVDs.⁶

Compared with healthy individuals, people living with some forms of CVDs are up to **33 times more likely** to be **hospitalized** due to a respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) infection.⁷



Immunization can help protect people living with CVDs:

The flu vaccine may **reduce the risk of death** from stroke **by 50%** and from heart attack **by 45%**.^{8,9}

People who receive the pneumococcal vaccine **lower their risk** of CVD-related mortality **by 8%** and lower their risk of any CVD event **by 14%**.¹⁰

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 CVDs. 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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