

Pneumonia Care... A Community Report

Pneumonia is an inflammation of the lungs caused by an infection. Pneumonia can be mild, moderate or severe. It is the second leading cause of hospitalization of older Americans and is the most frequent complication of the flu. Pneumonia is the eighth leading cause of death in all age groups.

Signs and Symptoms of Pneumonia – Pneumonia can be difficult to spot as it often mimics a cold or the flu, beginning with a cough and a fever.

Symptoms of Pneumonia are:

- Cough that brings up a greenish or yellowish mucus
- Fever and chills
- Stabbing or sharp chest pains that worsen during deep respiration
- Rapid, shallow breathing
- Shortness of breath
- Headache
- Excessive sweating and skin that is clammy to the touch
- Loss of appetite
- Severe Fatigue
- Older adults sometimes may experience confusion

When to call the Doctor

- Shortness of breath, either at rest or with just a little exertion
- Severe chest pain
- Severe weakness
- Coughing up blood
- Vomiting so much that you are dehydrated

Health Tips for Pneumonia Care

- Get plenty of rest. Even when you start to feel better, be careful not to overdo it.
- Drink plenty of fluids, especially water. Liquids keep you from becoming dehydrated and help loosen mucus in your lungs
- Take the entire course of any prescribed medications. Stopping medication too soon can cause your pneumonia to come back and contributes to the development of antibiotic-resistant bacteria.
- Keep all of your follow-up appointments. Even though you feel better, your lungs may still be infected. It is important to have your doctor monitor your progress

Pneumonia Care – How Does Alliance Community Hospital Compare?

At Alliance Community Hospital (ACH) we follow national pneumonia treatment guidelines designed to improve the quality of care for all pneumonia patients. We monitor the quality of care we provide by tracking specific national treatment guidelines and comparing our statistics to national benchmark standards.

1. National pneumonia treatment guidelines recommend that one dose of an antibiotic be given to pneumonia patient within six hours of arrival at the hospital

ACH 2008	State (Eastern Ohio)	National Average
96%	94%	94%

2. Smoking damages the lungs and can make it hard to breathe. Smoking increases a person's chances of getting pneumonia or other chronic lung diseases. The good news about the added health risk from smoking is that it is reduced when the person quits smoking. Smokers trying to quit, therefore, often require support and counseling. ACH offers smokers a smoking cessation program called "Fresh Start" in conjunction with the American Cancer Society and the number to sign up is 330-596-7100. National pneumonia treatment guidelines suggest that all patients who are current smokers be offered smoking cessation guidelines in an attempt to reduce or quit smoking.

ACH 2008	State (Eastern Ohio)	National Average
95%	92%	96%

3. Oxygen Assessment: Inadequate oxygen circulation is common in severe pneumonia and is a known mortality risk factor. Giving supplemental oxygen has been shown to decrease mortality among patients with pneumonia.

National Pneumonia treatment guidelines recommend that an oxygen assessment be completed on all diagnosed pneumonia patients

ACH 2008	State (Eastern Ohio)	National Average
100%	99%	100%

4. Pneumococcal Vaccination: is indicated for persons 65 years of age and older because it is up to 75% effective in preventing pneumonia and meningitis. In the United States today, vaccine coverage is sub-optimal.

National Pneumonia Treatment Guidelines recommend that all patients over the age of 65 years of age receive a pneumonia vaccination every 5 years. ACH offers Pneumococcal vaccination to all hospitalized patients.

ACH 2008	State (Eastern Ohio)	National Average
88%	89%	89%

5. Influenza Vaccination is indicated for people age 50 years and older because it is highly effective in preventing influenza-related pneumonia, hospitalization, and death.

National Pneumonia Treatment Guidelines recommend Influenza Vaccination for people age 50 years and older during the months of October through March. ACH offers Influenza Vaccine to all hospitalized patients.

ACH 2008	State (Eastern Ohio)	National Average
86%	83%	86%

Data for ACH and comparative data is obtained by using the Ohio Hospital Association Core Measure Report for 2008.