

Projected health and economic outcomes of extending public funding of pharmacy services to include administration of Pneu23 and Td/Tdap immunizations by pharmacy practitioners in New Brunswick

Read the full open-access article in the [Canadian Pharmacists Journal](#)



Did you know pharmacists in New Brunswick can administer a wide range of vaccines? This is great news, but there's a catch - right now, the only vaccines you can receive from a pharmacist free of charge include influenza and COVID-19 and, if you're 65 years or older, Pneu23 vaccines. You can still receive other vaccines from a pharmacist, but you will have to pay out-of-pocket for those. Needless to say, many New Brunswickers choose to have their vaccines administered by a physician, who can offer many of them free of charge.

In this recently published article, NB-IRDT researchers used administrative health data to project what might happen if public funding was used to cover the cost of pharmacists administering two types of vaccines for New Brunswickers aged 19 years and up:

Pneu23 pneumococcal ("pneumonia") vaccine

Td/Tdap Tetanus booster

By comparing health and cost outcomes of a "physician-only" model to those of a "blended" (i.e., pharmacist + physician) model, they produced some exciting results.

"Ideally these findings will inform policy decisions that support improved health for New Brunswickers through the continued engagement of pharmacy professionals as key providers of accessible care in the province."

~ Dr. Chris Folkins, Principal Investigator

Reimbursing pharmacists to provide these vaccines to New Brunswickers aged 19+ could result in:

1,115

additional Pneu23 shots

1,444

additional Td/Tdap shots

2,031

physician hours saved

\$227K

cost savings

Expected annually