

*A Review of Selected Federal Vaccine and
Immunization Policies, Based on Case
Studies of Pneumococcal Vaccine*

September 1979

NTIS order #PB80-116106

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SEPTEMBER 1979

 CONGRESS OF
THE UNITED STATES
Office of Technology Assessment
AST-79-001-001-001-001

Library of Congress Catalog Card Number 79-600165

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office
Washington, D.C. 20402 Stock No. 052-003 -00701-1

FOREWORD

This work originated in April 1978 as a background study in OTA'S Congressional Fellowship Program. The study initially was limited to an analysis of the benefits and costs of pneumococcal vaccine, with particular emphasis on vaccine reimbursement under Medicare for the elderly. As a result of encouragement by several reviewers, the scope of investigation was broadened substantially to include three other areas of vaccine policy concerns: research, development, and production; safety and efficacy; and liability. Cost-effectiveness analysis was selected to assess benefits and costs, and the entire report was incorporated into a larger OTA study entitled *Cost-Effectiveness of Medical Technologies*. This report is the first of six documents to be published as a part of the larger cost-effectiveness study.

A Review of Selected Federal Vaccine and Immunization Policies was prepared by OTA staff in consultation with several authorities in the relevant subject areas. The authors' professional backgrounds include training in public health, pharmacy, economics, law, medicine, public administration, public policy, and political science. Consultants included representatives from pharmaceutical companies, including Eli Lilly and Company, Merck Sharp and Dohme, and Lederle Laboratories; Government agencies, including the Bureau of Biologics (BOB), Center for Disease Control (CDC), National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), and Bureau of the Census; and academic institutions, in particular, Duke University, Harvard University, the University of Pennsylvania, and the University of California at San Francisco.

Drafts of the report were reviewed by members of two OTA advisory bodies: the Health Program Advisory Committee and the Cost-Effectiveness of Medical Technologies Advisory Panel. Various drafts also were reviewed by approximately 50 other individuals representing a wide range of professional disciplines. We were grateful for these many contributions to the work.



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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Several people provided valuable assistance in the preparation of this report. Individuals at the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), in particular, were very instrumental in developing data sets for the cost-effectiveness analysis. While OTA must assume ultimate responsibility for the content of this report, it greatly appreciates the contributions of—among many others—the following individuals:

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