

6 Jul 2015

To: Emergency Department Physicians**Re: Transition to new Pertussis-Containing Tetanus Vaccine in Edmonton Zone Emergency Departments**

As of July 6, 2015, dTap (diphtheria/tetanus/acellular pertussis, trade name - Boostrix® or Adacel®) will replace Td (tetanus/diphtheria, trade name – Td Adsorbed®) as the recommended tetanus-containing vaccine for use in Edmonton Zone Emergency Departments. Reasons for the change include:

- Adults frequently present to Emergency Departments (EDs) with tetanus-prone wounds.
- A vaccine, dTap is available which protects against pertussis in addition to tetanus and diphtheria.
- A dose of pertussis-containing vaccine is recommended for all adults.
- Immunity to pertussis from childhood immunization wanes over time. Adolescents and adults with pertussis are a major source of infection for infants, who are at highest risk of severe disease and complications. Adults may often experience prolonged severe cough illness when infected with pertussis.

The indications for tetanus-containing vaccine and tetanus immune globulin (TIG) remain unchanged. Adults and children over 7 years may be given dTap even if they have previously been immunized against pertussis. **dTap is not appropriate for children under 7 years of age or for pregnant women less than 26 weeks gestation. These persons should receive TIG, if indicated, and referred to Public Health as soon as possible for the appropriate tetanus-containing vaccine.** This can be done by directing the patient to contact their local Public Health Centre or HealthLink Alberta (811). The patient should inform the Centre or HealthLink that they were directed to obtain a tetanus vaccine following an injury. If Public Health is not available within 72-hours (e.g. Friday of a long weekend), contact the MOH on-call at 780-433-3940.

Patient immunization history of vaccine given by Edmonton Zone Public Health is available on Netcare. In order to keep this information up-to-date it is required that all doses of dTap administered to children (7 years up to and including 17 years of age) and all doses of TIG administered to patients of any age must be reported to Public Health using a report form which has been sent to Edmonton Zone ED Managers. Other vaccine provision requirements include the following:

- Like Td, dTap must be stored in a lab grade refrigerator between 2°C and 8°C. The fridge temperature must be continuously monitored. Any temperature variance less than 2°C or greater than 8°C (cold chain break) must be reported immediately, and the affected vaccine quarantined under cold chain. Further information about vaccine storage/handling and cold chain break reporting is available in the AHS Immunization Program Standards Manual at the link below.
- Patients should be advised to report any Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI) to Health Link (811). Serious AEFI occurring while still at the hospital should be reported to Edmonton Zone Communicable Disease Control at 780-342-0229 during business hours (0830 – 1700h).
- Information about accessing vaccine information, aftercare sheets and Adult Immunization Cards has been sent to the ED Managers.

For more information about immunization refer to the Alberta Health Services Immunization Program Standards Manual: <http://insite.albertahealthservices.ca/11322.asp>.

This advisory has been posted on the AHS-MOH webpage www.albertahealthservices.ca/7082.asp

For any questions or concerns regarding this process, please call Edmonton Zone Communicable Disease Control at 780-342-0229.



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