# Diphtheria Antitoxin (equine)

**Revision Date: April 17, 2014**

Please consult the Product Leaflet¹ for further information about this product.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Manufacturer</th>
<th>VINS Bioproducts Limited, India</th>
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## Authorization and access

**Special authorization and access procedures must be followed.**

- The Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health (OCMOH) must be notified by the fastest means possible of all cases in which diphtheria antitoxin is required.
- Available on a 24-hour basis from Alberta Health by calling OCMOH pager: 780-638-3630. A Special Access Program (SAP) Form is included with the product and must be completed and returned to Alberta Health.

**Note:** Diphtheria Antitoxin (equine) is stocked in the Provincial Vaccine Depot.

## Indications for use of diphtheria antitoxin serum

Treatment of suspected (based on clinical symptoms) or confirmed disease. Bacteriologic confirmation is not required to initiate treatment.¹

**Note:** Not recommended for prophylaxis of close, unimmunized contacts of diphtheria cases.¹²

For further information about the disease and reporting requirements refer to: *Public Health Notifiable Disease Management Guidelines – Diphtheria*.³

## Dose

The therapeutic dose is determined by the severity of the disease.¹

Follow the dosage as outlined on the Product Leaflet.

**This is a treatment product administered under the direction of a physician in an acute care setting.**

**Note:** Diphtheria antitoxin is supplied in 10 mL vials containing 10,000 IU each. For example the product leaflet recommends 10,000 – 30,000 IU for mild to moderately severe cases and up to a maximum of 100,000 IU for severe cases.¹

## Route

Refer to the Product Leaflet.

## Schedule

- Diphtheria antitoxin serum should be administered as soon as possible after clinical diagnosis. Treatment should not await laboratory confirmation of toxigenic *C. diphtheriae*.
- Skin testing for serum hypersensitivity should be carried out before diphtheria antitoxin is administered.¹²

Refer to the product information and Annex A and B of *Public Health Notifiable Disease Management Guidelines – Diphtheria*.³

**Note:** Individuals who have recovered from diphtheria should receive the age-appropriate diphtheria-containing vaccine. The vaccine should be administered three to four weeks after diphtheria antitoxin was administered to minimize antigen-antibody antagonism.⁵ Diphtheria does not necessarily confer immunity.²³

## Pregnancy

Pregnancy is not a contraindication to the use of diphtheria antitoxin serum. Intact IgG crosses the placenta from maternal circulation increasingly after 30 weeks.⁵

## Lactation

Breastfeeding is not a contraindication to diphtheria antitoxin serum. It is not known if antitoxin antibodies are excreted into breast milk.⁵
References


