Pertussis Immunization Program for Pregnant Women

Implementation - January 1, 2019

Infants who have not initiated or completed the primary series of pertussis immunization are at highest risk for pertussis related complications. Immunization of mothers in the second or third trimester of pregnancy provides protection to infants until they are able to receive the pertussis vaccine, which occurs at two months of age. Immunization with dTap (Diphtheria-Tetanus-Acellular Pertussis Combined Vaccine) is recommended for all pregnant women during every pregnancy.

Eligibility Criteria: Pregnant women during every pregnancy

- Vaccines containing diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis are a Schedule 1 drug and therefore require a prescription from an authorized prescriber, including pharmacists with additional prescribing authorization.
- Immunization with dTap vaccine may be provided any time at or after 13 weeks of gestation, **though the ideal time to administer the vaccine is between 27 and 32 weeks of gestation**. For guidance please refer to the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gestational Age (weeks)</th>
<th>&lt; 13 weeks</th>
<th>13 ≤ 26 weeks</th>
<th>IDEAL: 27 ≤ 32 weeks</th>
<th>&gt; 32 weeks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Guidance</td>
<td>Immunization not recommended under 13 weeks. Suggest returning during 27 to 32 weeks (however vaccine can be provided between 13 and 27 weeks if necessary).</td>
<td>Suggest returning during 27 to 32 weeks. If unable to return at that time, provide vaccine.</td>
<td>Provide vaccine.</td>
<td>Provide vaccine.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: If dTap immunization was provided at any time during pregnancy, including prior to 13 weeks gestation, it is not necessary to re-immunize.*

Please refer to the Alberta Immunization Policy - Biological Products Vaccine Chart [Diphtheria-Tetanus-Acellular Pertussis Combined Vaccine (dTap)] for contraindications, precautions, and further vaccine information.

Immunization Record Review

To determine a client’s eligibility, a thorough review of the client’s immunization history should occur to determine whether or not the client has received a dose of dTap vaccine during this pregnancy. Netcare is considered the primary source for immunization information, supplemented by a client’s personal immunization record (hard copy).

If the client is unsure whether a dose of dTap vaccine was administered during their current pregnancy and their immunization record cannot be confirmed in Netcare, refer to the following for guidance:
- At > 32 weeks gestation, provide vaccine.
- At ≤ 32 weeks gestation, defer immunization for two weeks. This will allow time for the immunization record to be updated in Netcare (if the vaccine was administered in this pregnancy). If there is no record in Netcare after two weeks, provide vaccine.

Note: If the client has no record of tetanus-containing immunization in the past, provide a dose of dTap and have the client contact Alberta Health Services Public Health for further information on completing the immunization series.

### Reporting Immunization Events and Alberta Blue Cross Billing

Pharmacists must submit claims to Alberta Blue Cross within three business days in order to have timely viewing of the immunization event in Netcare and to assist Alberta Health with vaccine supply monitoring. Please refer to the Alberta Blue Cross Benefact for more information regarding the submission of claims.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason Codes</th>
<th>Descriptor</th>
<th>PIN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>46</td>
<td>Pregnant Women</td>
<td>05666670</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Vaccine Supply and Distribution

- Similar to influenza vaccine, dTap vaccine will be ordered and distributed to pharmacies through Pharmacy Wholesale Distributors.
- Distribution amounts are based on vaccine availability.
- Maximum ordering threshold for dTap per order is 10 doses. Product could be supplied in the following formats. Both equal one unit:
  - single dose syringe per package or
  - 10-single dose syringes per package

If you have any questions, please contact health.imm@gov.ab.ca.