



Pat Quinn, Governor

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M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Local Health Departments and Hospitals; Emergency Departments, Urgent Care Clinics

FROM: Karen Pendergrass, Surveillance Coordinator
Kenneth Soyemi, MD, MPH, OHP Assistant Medical Director

DATE: November 10, 2011

RE: Use of Tdap Vaccine Instead of Td Vaccine in Emergency Departments and Urgent Care Clinics

In response to the increased incidence of pertussis (whooping cough) in Illinois and the United States, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) recommends that: Whenever tetanus toxoid is indicated for wound management, hospital emergency departments and urgent care centers administer tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis (Tdap) vaccine instead of tetanus and diphtheria (Td) toxoids or tetanus toxoid (TT) to all patients 7 years of age and older, including pregnant women, who have not had a previous dose of Tdap¹

Pertussis is typically spread to young infants by adolescents or adults, usually household members. Infants too young to be immunized against pertussis are particularly vulnerable to severe pertussis disease. Increasing population immunity to pertussis should reduce opportunities for pertussis transmission.

Tdap vaccine, which was first licensed in the U.S. in 2005, is the only product available to protect older children, teens and adults against pertussis. Two Tdap formulations are available. Adacel® is currently licensed for those who are 11-64 years of age and Boostrix® is licensed for those 10 years of age and older (including those older than 64 years of age).

Tdap need not be deferred if the patient cannot recall whether they have had a prior dose of Tdap vaccine and Tdap can be given regardless of the time elapsed since the last vaccine containing tetanus or diphtheria toxoids.

The only contraindications to immunization with Tdap, are a documented history of anaphylaxis after receipt of Tdap, DTaP or their ingredients; or encephalopathy occurring within 7 days after immunization against pertussis that was not due to another identifiable cause.

If you have any questions about tetanus vaccine recommendations for wound management or about pertussis, please contact your local health department or the IDPH immunization section at (217) 785-1455. Thank you.

Enclosure

¹ If immunization records are not available, assume that the patient has NOT received a prior dose of Tdap