



MEMO

TO: Prevention Partnership Providers
Local Public Health Units
Obstetricians and Gynecologists

FROM: Molly Howell, MPH *MH*
Immunization Program Manager

RE: Tdap Recommendations for Pregnancy

DATE: December 12, 2012

On December 6, 2012, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released provisional recommendations for the use of Tdap (tetanus toxoid, reduced diphtheria toxoid and acellular pertussis vaccine) during each pregnancy following the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations made October 24, 2012.

ACIP recommends that providers of prenatal care implement a Tdap immunization program for all pregnant women. A dose of Tdap should be administered during each pregnancy regardless of the woman's prior history of receiving Tdap. This means that there is no minimum interval between doses of Tdap and there is no maximum number of doses of Tdap that pregnant women can receive.

The recommended use of Tdap during each pregnancy is to maximize the passive pertussis antibody transfer to the infant. Infants are at highest risk for severe complications from pertussis. Optimal timing for the Tdap vaccine is between 27 and 36 weeks gestation. If Tdap is not administered during pregnancy, a dose should be administered immediately postpartum.

North Dakota is experiencing a dramatic increase in pertussis cases in 2012; nearly triple the cases of 2011. Of the 199 cases reported in 2012, 31 are infants younger than one, of which seven were hospitalized. Providers should consider pertussis in patients with prolonged cough illness with paroxysms, whoop, apnea, or posttussive vomiting or gagging. Pertussis should be considered in pregnant women with a cough.

The North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) recommends all North Dakota providers implement Tdap Immunization during pregnancy. For the general population, a single dose of Tdap is still recommended. Everyone ages 11 and older should receive a dose of Tdap if they haven't already received one. This is especially

important for people in close contact with infants, such as expecting or new fathers, grandparents, siblings, child care providers, healthcare workers, etc.

The CDC Tdap recommendations for pregnant women can be found at www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/provisional/downloads/Tdap-pregnant-Oct-2012.pdf. The NDDoH supplies Tdap vaccine for uninsured and underinsured adults. Providers may contact the NDDoH Immunization Program if they are interested in enrolling to receive vaccines.

The NDDoH strongly recommends that all adult vaccinations, including Tdap, be entered into the North Dakota Immunization Information System (NDIIS). State law requires the entry of all childhood vaccinations. If you don't already have access to the NDIIS, please contact the NDDoH Immunization Program.

As a reminder, pregnant women and their contacts are also recommended to receive influenza vaccine.

Please feel free to contact the NDDoH Immunization Program with any questions or concerns at 701.328.3386 or toll-free at 800.472.2180.