



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
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Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor

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February 2, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: North Carolina Immunization Program (NCIP) Participants

FROM: Beth Rowe-West, RN, BSN, Head
Immunization Branch

SUBJECT: Expanded Recommendations for Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Acellular Pertussis) Vaccine

The purpose of this memo is to inform providers of changes in the recommendations for Tdap vaccine, based on the recent Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) document, *Updated Recommendations for the Use of Tetanus Toxoid, Reduced Diphtheria Toxoid and Acellular Pertussis (Tdap) Vaccine from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, 2010*. The full recommendations may be found at:

http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6001a4.htm?s_cid=mm6001a4_e&source=govdelivery

The updated recommendations affect certain children between the ages of 7 and 10 years, and certain adults ages 65 and older.

According to the new recommendations, children 7 through 10 years of age:

- who were **not fully vaccinated** against pertussis and for whom no contraindication to pertussis vaccine exists, should receive a single dose of Tdap. Fully vaccinated is defined as 5 doses of DTaP or 4 doses of DTaP if the fourth dose was administered on or after the fourth birthday; or,
- who were **never vaccinated** against tetanus, diphtheria, or pertussis or who have **unknown vaccination status**, should receive a series of three vaccinations containing tetanus and diphtheria toxoids. (The preferred schedule is a single Tdap dose, followed by a dose of Td four weeks after the first dose and a second dose of Td 6 – 12 months later. If not administered as the first dose, Tdap can be substituted for any of the other Td doses in the series.)

Recommendations for children 11 through 18 years of age remain unchanged.

According to the new recommendations, adults aged 65 years and older:

- who have or anticipate having close contact with an infant aged less than 12 months should receive a single dose of Tdap; and
- other adults ages 65 years and older may be given a single dose of Tdap.

Usage of state-supplied vaccine for children and adults is limited by the NCIP coverage criteria, which may be found at:

<http://www.immunizenc.com/coveragecriteria.htm>

Questions regarding the administration of Tdap should be addressed with your regional immunization nurse (RIN), or with the Immunization Branch on-call nurse at 919-707-5575.

Remember to sign up to receive our e-newsletter, *Vax Facts*, in your email inbox. Log on to www.immunizenc.com/enewsletter.htm for sign-up instructions and to review past editions.

CC: SMT Terri Pennington Regional Immunization Staff Maelyn Powell Central Office Staff Timika Poston Vaccine Manufacturers Taryn Edwards Steve Shore Peter Graber Joy Reed