



Technical Bulletin

Division of Public and Behavioral Health



Date: June 6, 2016

Topic: Use of Tdap and Td Vaccine in ERs, Urgent Care Centers and for Health Care Workers

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To: Hospital Administrators, Nevada Hospital Association, HCQC, Emergency Room Directors and Urgent Care Centers

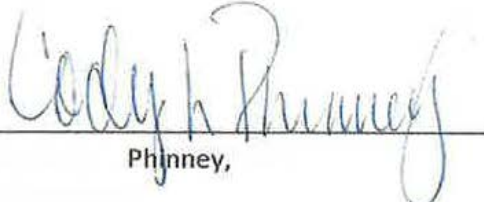
Use of Tdap and Td Vaccine in ERs, Urgent Care Centers and for Health Care Workers

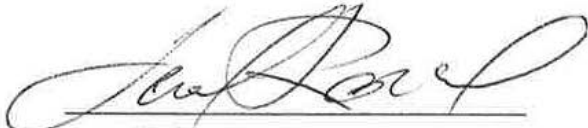
The Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health Immunization Program strongly encourages emergency rooms and urgent care centers to administer the Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Acellular Pertussis (Tdap) vaccine instead of the Tetanus and Diphtheria (Td) vaccine to patients and health care workers **whenever tetanus vaccine is indicated AND the patient has not yet received a dose of Tdap vaccine in their lifetime. It is important for these facilities to stock both Tdap and Td vaccine at all times. Td is the indicated booster dose when tetanus prophylaxis is indicated and the patient has received a dose of Tdap in the past.**

Why are we concerned?

- Pertussis rates among U.S. adults and adolescents continues to rise;
- Most pertussis-related morbidity and mortality occurs in infants younger than 1 year;
- Infants do not have ample protection against pertussis until 3-4 doses of the DTaP vaccine are administered and the vaccine series is completed (at approximately 12-18 months of age);
- Protection against pertussis from early childhood vaccination decreases over time, and teens and adults can become infected repeatedly, often without knowing they are contagious;
- Health care workers are at a greater risk of exposure than the general population and could spread the disease to their patients and many others. Vaccinating health care workers who have close contact with infants and children can help decrease the morbidity and mortality of pertussis in newborns, infants and children; and
- Children, adolescents and adults with undiagnosed pertussis can spread the disease to others, especially younger family members who have little to no protection due to their young age.

The Tdap vaccine is the only adolescent and adult vaccine product available to protect against pertussis. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends one (1) lifetime dose of Tdap vaccine for every individual beginning at 11 years of age. Two (2) Tdap vaccine products are available in the U.S.: Adacel (Sanofi Pasteur) and Boostrix (GSK). The ACIP additionally recommends that pregnant women receive a Tdap vaccine with every pregnancy. For all ACIP recommendations on Tdap, please review <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/vacc-specific/tdap-td.html>.


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