



Consideration for dTpa vaccines for tetanus-prone wounds for increasing pertussis protection, updated HPV FAQs

Consideration of dTpa vaccine rather than dT vaccine for tetanus prone wounds for increasing pertussis protection

The Australian Immunisation Handbook (AIH) recommends adolescents and adults with tetanus-prone wounds receive a booster dose of either dT (diphtheria, tetanus) or dTpa (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis) vaccine.

Given the increased cases of pertussis and waning immunity, providers are encouraged to administer a dTpa vaccine rather than dT vaccine to all patients with a tetanus prone wound, to provide additional protection against pertussis. This is especially important if they have not previously received a dose of dTpa in the past 5 years.

Pregnant women are recommended to receive this booster dose as dTpa to also protect against pertussis.

It is more important than ever that you check your patient's Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) record to see if the person is eligible for a pertussis-containing vaccine.

Remember to submit all vaccination encounters to the AIR so your patients have a complete immunisation record. Visit [Services Australia](#) for instructions on how to do this.

Updated HPV FAQs for providers and communities

The National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance (NCIRS) has refreshed its HPV frequently asked questions (FAQs) resource to support healthcare providers and the public to address common questions and concerns about HPV vaccination.

NCIRS recently ran a webinar titled 'Protecting adolescents through immunisation: insights, drivers and opportunities for action'- Recording is available [here](#).

The HPV vaccine is available free under the National Immunisation Program for individuals aged 9–25 years and is routinely administered through school-based programs for adolescents aged 12–13 years.

If students miss their vaccine at school, they are eligible to receive government funded catch-up vaccines from their community immunisation clinic or participating GPs, pharmacists, Aboriginal Medical Services (the vaccine is free, however some organisations may charge a service fee). Refer to catch-up vaccination on the Australian Immunisation Handbook ([external site](#)) for more information.

The FAQs also include revised information on HPV prevalence, adverse events and vaccine effectiveness.

This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with disability.

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