

Nevada State Health Division
Technical Bulletin



Topic:	Use of Tdap vaccine in ERs, Urgent Care Centers, and Health Care Workers	Bureau/Program: Bureau of Child, Family and Community Wellness/ Immunization Program
Bulletin #:	BCFCW-IZ 02-12	
Date:	August 22, 2012	
To:	ERs, Urgent Care Centers, Hospital Administrators, HCQC, Nevada Hospital Association	
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**Use of Tdap Vaccine Instead of Td in
ERs, Urgent Care Centers, and for Health Care Workers**
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The Nevada State Health Division 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 is indicated. This recommendation is in response to reducing the incidence of pertussis (whooping cough) in Nevada. This is also recommended by the Joint Commission in their new monograph, available at www.jointcommission.org/tdap/.

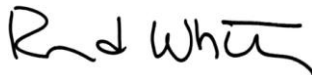
Currently, the number of Nevada pertussis cases has significantly increased. Nationally, pertussis outbreaks are also on the rise and many states other than California are experiencing outbreaks. This includes Washington, Wisconsin, Arizona, Oregon, Illinois, North Carolina, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Maine, Vermont, New Jersey, Montana, Florida, and several others.

Why Is There A Concern?

- Pertussis rates among adults have risen 400% since 1990.
- In 2010, 27,550 cases of pertussis were reported in the U.S. This included 27 deaths with 25 of them being in children younger than 1 year of age. Additionally there was an increase in cases amongst 7-10 year olds.
- Preliminary data for 2011 shows that 12 deaths occurred in the U.S. from pertussis with 11 of these deaths occurring in children younger than 1 year of age.
- Most pertussis-related deaths occur in infants less than 4 months of age.
- Babies do not have ample protection against pertussis until 3-4 doses of the DTap vaccine are administered and the vaccine series is completed (approximately 12-18 month of age).
- Protection against pertussis from early childhood vaccination decreases over time, and teens and adults can become infected repeatedly.
- Health care workers are at greater risk of acquiring pertussis than the general population who can then spread the disease to their patients and their own family members. 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.
- Children, teens, and adults with undiagnosed pertussis can spread the disease to others, especially newborns who have no protection.

The Tdap vaccine is the only adolescent and adult product available to protect against pertussis. The CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) now recommends Tdap vaccine for individuals seven years and older. Currently Adacel is licensed for 11-64 years of age and Boostrix is licensed for 10 years of age and older. Note that on June 22, 2011, ACIP voted to recommend Tdap for pregnant women after 20 weeks gestation to improve protection for both the pregnant woman and newborn. For all ACIP recommendations on Tdap go to: www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/ACIP-list.htm.

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