Summary Guide to Tetanus Prophylaxis in Routine Wound Management

ASSESS WOUND

A clean, minor wound

Has patient completed a primary tetanus diphtheria series?\(^1,7\)

No/Unknown

Administer vaccine today.\(^{2,3,4}\)

Instruct patient to complete series per age-appropriate vaccine schedule.

Yes

Was the most recent dose within the past 10 years?

Administer vaccine and tetanus immune globulin (TIG) now.\(^{2,4,5,6,7}\)

No

Vaccine not needed today.

Patient should receive next dose at 10-year interval after last dose.

Yes

Has patient completed a primary tetanus diphtheria series?\(^1,7\)

No/Unknown

Administer vaccine today.\(^{2,4}\)

Patient should receive next dose per age-appropriate schedule.

Yes

Vaccine not needed today.

Patient should receive next dose at 10-year interval after last dose.

* Tdap* is preferred for persons 10 through 64 years of age if using Adacel\(^1\) or 10 years of age and older if using Boostrix\(^4\) who have never received Tdap. Td is preferred to tetanus toxoid (TT) for persons 7 through 9 years of age, or \(\geq 65\) years of age if only Adacel\(^1\) is available, or those who have received a Tdap previously. If TT is administered, an adsorbed TT product is preferred to fluid TT. (All DTaP/DTP/Tdap/DT/Td products contain adsorbed tetanus toxoid.)

5 Give TIG 250 U IM for all ages. It can and should be given simultaneously with the tetanus-containing vaccine.

6 For infants <6 weeks of age, TIG (without vaccine) is recommended for “dirty” wounds (wounds other than clean, minor).

7 Persons who are HIV positive should receive TIG regardless of tetanus immunization history.

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1 A primary series consists of a minimum of 3 doses of tetanus- and diphtheria-containing vaccine (DTaP/DTP/Tdap/DT/Td).

2 Age-appropriate vaccine:
   - DTaP for infants and children 6 weeks up to 7 years of age (or DT pediatric if pertussis vaccine is contraindicated);
   - Tetanus-diphtheria (Td) toxoid for persons 7 through 9 years of age; and \(\geq 65\) years of age;
   - Tdap for persons 10 through 64 years of age if using Adacel\(^1\) or 10 years of age and older if using Boostrix\(^4\), unless the person has received a prior dose of Tdap.*

3 No vaccine or TIG is recommended for infants <6 weeks of age with clean, minor wounds. (And no vaccine is licensed for infants <6 weeks of age.)

4 Tdap* is preferred for persons 10 through 64 years of age if using Adacel\(^1\) or 10 years of age and older if using Boostrix\(^4\) who have never received Tdap. Td is preferred to tetanus toxoid (TT) for persons 7 through 9 years of age, or \(\geq 65\) years of age if only Adacel\(^1\) is available, or those who have received a Tdap previously. If TT is administered, an adsorbed TT product is preferred to fluid TT. (All DTaP/DTP/Tdap/DT/Td products contain adsorbed tetanus toxoid.)

5 Give TIG 250 U IM for all ages. It can and should be given simultaneously with the tetanus-containing vaccine.

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7 Persons who are HIV positive should receive TIG regardless of tetanus immunization history.

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\(^{2}\) Brand names are used for the purpose of clarifying product characteristics and are not in any way an endorsement of either product.