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

行政者 vaccine today.2, 3, 4
Instruct patient to complete
series per age-appropriate
vaccine schedule.

行政者 vaccine today.2, 3, 4
Patient should receive next dose
per age-appropriate schedule.

All other wounds (contaminated with dirt, feces, saliva,
soil; puncture wounds; avulsions; wounds resulting from
flying or crushing objects, animal bites, burns, frostbite)

Has patient completed a primary
tetanus diphtheria series?1, 7

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

Vaccine not needed today.

Administer vaccine today.2, 4
Patient should receive next dose
at 10-year interval after
last dose.

Was the most recent
dose within the past
10 years?

No/Unknown

Yes

Was the most recent
dose within the past 5 years?7

No

Yes

Vaccine not needed today.

Administer vaccine today.2, 4
Patient should receive next dose
per age-appropriate schedule.

No/Unknown

Yes

Tdap* is preferred for persons 11 through 64 years of age if using Adacel* or 10 years of age and older if using Boostrix* who have never received Tdap. Td is preferred to tetanus toxoid (TT) for persons 7 through 9 years, 65 years and older, or who have received a Tdap previously. If TT is administered, and adsorbed TT product is preferred to fluid TT. (All DTaP/DTP/Tdap/DT/Td products contain adsorbed tetanus toxoid.)

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

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

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

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

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 65 years of age and older;
• Tdap for persons 11 through 64 years of age if using Adacel* or 10 years of age and older if using Boostrix*, unless the person has received a prior dose of Tdap.*

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

*Brand names are used for the purpose of clarifying product characteristics and are not an endorsement of either product.

Tdap vaccines:

Boostrix (GSK) is licensed for persons 10 years of age and older.

Adacel (sanofi) is licensed for persons 11 through 64 years of age.

1 Has patient completed a primary tetanus diphtheria series?1, 7
2 Administer vaccine today.2, 3, 4
3 Instruct patient to complete series per age-appropriate vaccine schedule.
4 Vaccine not needed today.
5 Patient should receive next dose at 10-year interval after last dose.
6 Tdap* is preferred for persons 11 through 64 years of age if using Adacel* or 10 years of age and older if using Boostrix* who have never received Tdap. Td is preferred to tetanus toxoid (TT) for persons 7 through 9 years, 65 years and older, or who have received a Tdap previously. If TT is administered, and adsorbed TT product is preferred to fluid TT. (All DTaP/DTP/Tdap/DT/Td products contain adsorbed tetanus toxoid.)
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