

Tdap Vaccine Now Recommended in Every Pregnancy

Attention: Physicians, Midwives, Emergency Departments, Infection Control Practitioners, Nurse Practitioners, Walk-In Clinics/Urgent Care Clinics, Family Health Teams, Central LHIN, NSM LHIN

Date: April 18, 2018

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) and the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (SOGC) are both endorsing a new recommendation for **Tdap vaccine to be offered to all pregnant women in every pregnancy, irrespective of their previous immunization status.**

Hospitalizations for pertussis infection are greatest among babies less than two months of age. With increasing pertussis outbreaks in Canada, routine maternal vaccination will provide better protection for infants. Tdap vaccination in pregnancy has been shown to protect 9 of 10 infants, less than three months of age, against pertussis.

Many countries have already incorporated Tdap vaccination in pregnancy as part of their routine adult immunization program. No increased risk of serious adverse pregnancy, maternal or infant events have been reported in these countries. Similarly, no serious adverse events have been detected in Canada through CAEFIS (*Canadian Adverse Events Following Immunization Surveillance*).

NACI states that Tdap vaccine may be provided from 13 weeks up until delivery, but should ideally be provided between 27 and 32 weeks of gestational age, as this strikes the best balance between safety and effectiveness data and provides optimal antibody transfer for babies born after 37 weeks.

SOGC expanded their recommendation to say that Tdap vaccine may be offered at any prenatal appointment, and they recommend Tdap ideally be provided between 21 and 32 weeks of gestational age. The rationale for recommending vaccination starting at 21 weeks (after the routine anatomical ultrasound) is to prevent any unrelated adverse events identified in the fetal scan to be misattributed or temporally associated if the vaccine is given earlier. This also protects babies who may be born prematurely, as it takes about 4 weeks for placental transfer of antibodies to protect the baby.

- Vaccination is recommended irrespective of previous immunization history or the interval between pregnancies due to rapid waning maternal antibody.
- Currently one adult dose of Tdap is publicly funded in Ontario.
- Vaccination is also recommended for any other family members who will be in close contact with the newborn baby.

Although the immunization is recommended in the prenatal period the documentation of the Tdap can be noted in the Ontario Perinatal Record Postnatal Visit section.

Additional Resources

SOGC Q & A on Tdap Vaccination Against Pertussis (Whooping Cough) During Pregnancy in Canada
https://sogc.org/files/MCC_11776_Pertussis_WhoopingCough_QAInfographic_PRESS.PDF

SOGC Clinical Practice Guideline No. 357 – Immunization in Pregnancy (April, 2018).
<https://sogc.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/gui220CPG0812.pdf>

NACI Advisory Statement: Update on Immunization in Pregnancy with Tetanus Toxoid, Reduced Diphtheria Toxoid and Reduced Acellular Pertussis (Tdap) vaccine. (February 2018).
<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/healthy-living/update-immunization-pregnancy-tdap-vaccine.html>

A User Guide to the Ontario Perinatal Record
<https://www.doctorcare.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/OntPrenatalRecord-2017-UserGuide.pdf>

If you have questions please call the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit's Vaccine Preventable Disease Program at 705-721-7520 Ext. 8806 or toll free at 1-877-751-7520 Ext. 8806 Monday to Friday between 8:30 am - 4:30 pm.