



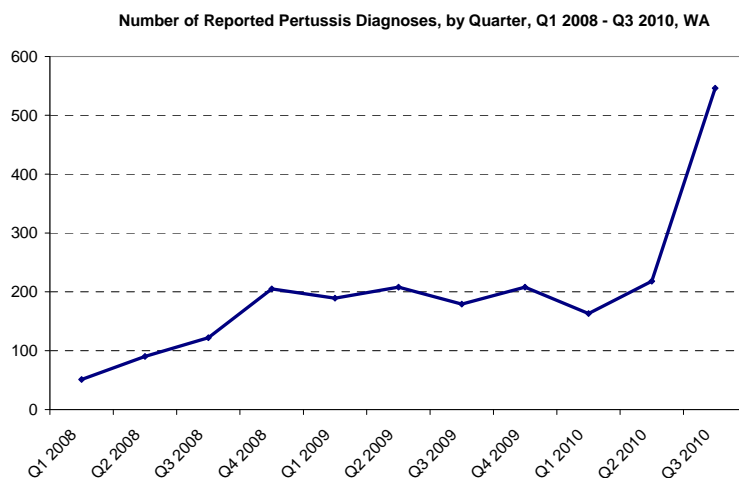
## **WA Pertussis Vaccination Program for New Parents Information for Vaccination Providers**

### **Why has the Director General approved providing pertussis vaccine for new parents in Western Australia?**

Infants are the most vulnerable to severe pertussis illness which can be complicated by pneumonia, hypoxic encephalopathy and occasionally result in death. In order to prevent newborns from acquiring pertussis infection, the Australian Technical Advisory Group on immunisations (ATAGI) recommends that both parents should be vaccinated as soon as possible after delivery of an infant. WA DOH is supporting this recommendation by making the pertussis vaccine (dTpa) free to new parents.

### **Why is the WA Pertussis Vaccination Program for New Parents being launched at this time?**

Outbreaks of pertussis occur periodically in Australia. Pertussis is currently on the rise in Western Australia and the Pertussis Vaccination Program for New Parents is intended to mitigate the threat to newborns during this period of increased risk. (See figure).



### **How long will the WA Pertussis Vaccination Program for New Parents last?**

At present this is a time limited program that will run for 6 months - from 1 January 2011 to 30 June 2011 - with the possibility of extension pending an assessment of uptake and ongoing need.

### **Who is eligible for free dTpa vaccine under the WA Pertussis Vaccination Program for New Parents?**

Mothers and fathers of children born between 1<sup>st</sup> January 2011 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011.

### **When are parents eligible for free dTpa vaccine under the WA Pertussis Vaccination Program for New Parents?**



## **WA Pertussis Vaccination Program for New Parents Information for Vaccination Providers**

The parents will be eligible for the free dTpa vaccine for up to six months after the date of birth of their newborn.

### **Where will new parents be able to get the free dTpa vaccine?**

CDCD is asking all maternity hospitals to offer dTpa to new mothers prior to hospital discharge. The maternity hospitals are also being asked to provide new fathers with a “Fathers” dTpa consent form that has the mother’s hospital sticker affixed. The father can then be referred to a local community health centre to receive their free dTpa vaccine.

### **Can new mothers also receive free dTpa vaccine at a local community health centre?**

Yes. While it is preferable that new mothers be vaccinated before hospital discharge new mothers who were not vaccinated with dTpa while in the hospital may also present to community health centres for vaccination.

### **Do parents need to complete a dTpa consent form prior to being vaccinated?**

CDCD recommends using the dTpa consent form especially developed for the WA Pertussis Vaccination Program for New Parents. These consent forms contain important information for parents about the benefits of vaccination, pertussis illness, post vaccination care, and possible vaccine side-effects.

### **Do the dTpa consent forms need to have the mother’s hospital sticker affixed?**

Ideally the mother’s hospital sticker should be applied to both the Mother and Father’s consent forms at the maternity hospital. However, if a parent presents for dTpa vaccination at a community health centre without a consent form, or with a consent form that does not have the mother’s hospital sticker affixed, but the individual has appropriate documentation that they qualify for free vaccine as a new parent (e.g. they have identification and a copy of the birth certificate) the new parent(s) should be provided with the vaccine. In these instances the community health provider can simply note in the place where the sticker would have been that they have sighted appropriate documentation that the individual vaccinated was eligible for free dTpa vaccine.

### **What should the maternity hospital or community health centre staff do with the dTpa consent forms after they have administered the vaccine?**

After administering the dTpa vaccine, the provider should fax a copy of the completed consent form to CDCD on 08 9388 4877. The original document can be kept as part of the patient’s medical record.

### **Can new parents also receive free dTpa vaccine at GPs office?**

No, the free dTpa is only available at maternity hospitals or community health centres. However, parents may elect to be vaccinated at their GPs practice if they purchase the



## **WA Pertussis Vaccination Program for New Parents Information for Vaccination Providers**

vaccine. The cost of the vaccine at different pharmacies may vary but is approximately \$30 per dose; a consultation fee may also apply.

### **Who should authorize dTpa vaccinations of persons who are in the hospital?**

In order to ensure optimal coordination of inpatient medical services, a provider involved in the care of the mother should authorise her dTpa vaccination.

### **Are community health nurses authorised to vaccinate new parents with dTpa vaccine?**

Yes. Vaccination of new parents with dTpa vaccine has been added to the WA Immunisation Schedule so the authority for WA DOH nurses to provide the vaccine is the same as that for all other immunisations they administer.

### **How can I get a stock of dTpa vaccine so it can be used in the new parent program?**

#### *Metropolitan Area Health Facilities:*

Metropolitan immunisation service providers can order their pertussis vaccine through the online vaccine ordering system at <http://colors.csldirect.com.au>. When placing your order on-line please select/request "Adacel - for new parents" to distinguish this program from our regular stock of Adacel for the year 7 school program.

Metropolitan maternity hospitals can place an order for dTpa vaccine (ADACEL) to the maximum of 100 doses in any one order

Metropolitan community health centres can order a maximum of 50 doses in any one order.

#### *Regional Area Health Facilities:*

Regional hospitals and community health centres can order vaccine through their routine regional pharmacy ordering mechanism; the order size should be commensurate with the birth rate and anticipated vaccine uptake in their communities.

If you have any concerns regarding ordering your pertussis vaccine please contact the vaccine ordering team on 08 9388 4863 or email [vaccineorders@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:vaccineorders@health.wa.gov.au)

### **Why should new parents consider being vaccinated against whooping cough?**

The number of babies under six months old catching whooping cough has increased dramatically in Australia over the last five years. Parents and family members are the main source of whooping cough infection in babies. Vaccination helps protect the parents from catching whooping cough and passing on the infection to their baby. The most important thing parents can do to protect their baby is to make sure that the whole family is up to date



## **WA Pertussis Vaccination Program for New Parents Information for Vaccination Providers**

with their immunisations. Even if an adult was fully vaccinated as a child, they may no longer be protected against pertussis because immunity provided by the vaccine fades after six to ten years.

### **Is the dTpa vaccine safe for breastfeeding mothers?**

The Australian Immunisation handbook 9th Edition states there is no evidence of risk to the breastfeeding baby if the mother is vaccinated with any vaccine, with the exception of the rubella vaccine.

### **Where can I learn more about the dTpa vaccine used in the new parent program?**

Providers can learn more about the dTpa vaccine for adults by reviewing educational material posted on the WA DOH website

[http://www.public.health.wa.gov.au/3/473/3/provider\\_information\\_immunisation.pm](http://www.public.health.wa.gov.au/3/473/3/provider_information_immunisation.pm)

Providers can also review the official "Provider Information" and "Consumer Information" documents for any vaccine, including dTpa, posted on line by the Therapeutics Goods Administration at <http://www.tga.gov.au/meds/picmi.htm>

### **Who can I contact if I have questions about the WA Pertussis Vaccination Program for New Parents?**

For questions regarding individual patient management, please contact your local Regional Immunisation Coordinator.

For questions regarding overall program operations please contact the Prevention and Control Program, CDCD at 08 9388 4863.

Information about Community health clinics can be obtained from [http://www.health.wa.gov.au/services/category.cfm?Topic\\_ID=6](http://www.health.wa.gov.au/services/category.cfm?Topic_ID=6)

Information about immunisation clinics can also be obtained from Regional Immunisation Coordinators working in your local Public Health Unit

[http://www.public.health.wa.gov.au/2/373/2/where\\_to\\_get\\_vaccinated.pm](http://www.public.health.wa.gov.au/2/373/2/where_to_get_vaccinated.pm) or the Central Immunisation Clinic tele 08 9321 1312..

**Communicable Disease Control Directorate**