



Communicable Disease Control Directorate

TO: GENERAL PRACTICE IMMUNISATION PROVIDERS IN WA

RE: PERTUSSIS VACCINE FOR NEW PARENTS

- As of 1 July 2010 GPs in WA will be able to order state-procured pertussis vaccine for use in new parents, grandparents and other household carers of newborns
- Vaccines used in the Year 7 school immunisation program (HPV, Hep B, Varicella and dTpa) will also be available to GPs, without prior approval, for vaccinating children who may miss vaccine doses in school.
- After vaccination, a "Report of Government-Procured Vaccines used in General Practice for Adolescents and Adults" must be faxed to CDCD

The Director General has approved provision of state-funded pertussis vaccine to GP practices for administration to new parents, grandparents and other household carers who spend substantial time with newborns.

Pertussis is a highly contagious respiratory illness with an estimated attack rate of 80% among susceptible household members. Sustained, elevated, pertussis activity is occurring in WA with more than 2,000 confirmed infections reported since January 2010. Infants are the most vulnerable to severe disease 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 recommends that both parents should be vaccinated as soon as possible after delivery of an infant.

To expand opportunities for new parents to be vaccinated, as of 1 July 2011, the Communicable Disease Control Directorate (CDCD) will make adult formulation pertussis-containing vaccine (dTpa) available to GPs in WA. This is a time limited program and will run through to 1 January 2012, with the possibility of extension. A Fact Sheet entitled "WA Pertussis Vaccination Program for New Parents Information for General Practitioners" is attached. If you have any additional questions please contact the Prevention and Control Program, CDCD on 9388 4863.

Vaccines used in the Year 7 school immunisation program (HPV, Hep B, Varicella and dTpa) will also be available to GPs, without prior approval, for vaccinating children who might have missed vaccine doses in school.

In the Perth metropolitan area dTpa, HPV, Hep B, and Varicella vaccines can be ordered on-line using the existing system for government funded vaccines (<http://colors.csldirect.com.au/>). Regional GPs should continue to order these vaccines through usual channels (e.g. regional pharmacy). Please see the attachment on ordering vaccines for adolescents and adults for further details.

The sustained affordability of these arrangements is dependant on GPs ensuring that the vaccines are used only in the eligible cohorts. After administering vaccines obtained for use in either the New Parent Pertussis Vaccination Program or the Year 7 School Vaccination Program, GPs should fax a completed "Report of Government-Procured Vaccines used in General Practice for Adolescents and Adults" to CDCD on 08 9388 4877 (see form attached). All practices ordering vaccines will be mailed additional forms and a pdf of the form will be available on our website.

Sincerely,

Dr Paul Armstrong
DIRECTOR

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL DIRECTORATE

13 June 2011