

VACCINE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TETANUS-PRONE WOUNDS IN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS

The aim of management is to prevent tetanus and complete a primary course of vaccination

For further information and advice refer to The Australian Immunisation Handbook pages 288—296 or contact the PHU on 49246477

< 8 years - The recommended primary course of vaccination is with Infanrix Hexa® at 2, 4 & 6 months of age plus a booster dose at 4 yrs of age of Infanrix-IPV®.

≥ 8 years - 3 tetanus containing vaccines (at least a month apart) plus booster doses at 12 years and 50 years




STEPS

1. Check documented history of tetanus containing vaccinations
2. Manage as per table 1 — if primary course remains incomplete refer patient to immunisation provider e.g., GP
3. Administer age appropriate vaccines as per table 2

Table 1. Management of tetanus prone wounds

History of tetanus containing vaccines	Time since last dose	Type of wound See p. 293 of handbook for definition of tetanus prone wound	DTPa, DTPa-combinations, dT, dTpa as appropriate	Tetanus immunoglobulin (TIG) obtain from the pharmacy servicing your site or the Australian Red Cross phone: 1300 478 348
≥ 3 doses	< 5 years	All wounds	NO	NO
≥ 3 doses	5—10 years	Clean minor wounds	NO	NO
≥ 3 doses	5—10 years	All other wounds	YES	NO
≥ 3 doses	> 10 years	All wounds	YES	NO
< 3 doses or uncertain	N/A	Clean minor wounds	YES	NO
< 3 doses or uncertain	N/A	All other wounds	YES	YES
				TIG dose = 250 units - given IMI - 21 gauge needle, ASAP after injury. If ≥ 24 h has elapsed, 500 units should be given.

Table 2. Age appropriate vaccines available - note that the dose of tetanus in vaccines for children < 8 years is **higher** than in adult vaccines as it is a primary course.

Age Group	Infanrix Hexa® DTPa-hepB-IPV-Hib 	Infanrix-IPV® DTPa-IPV 	Boostrix® or Adacel® dTpa 	ADT Booster® dT
	Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, Hepatitis B, poliomyelitis, Haemophilus influenzae type b	Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, poliomyelitis	Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis	Diphtheria, tetanus
< 8 years	✓	✓	✗	✗
≥ 8 years	✗	✗	✓	✓