




California Department of Public Health
MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 11, 2018
TO: Local Health Officers and Immunization Coordinators
FROM: 
SUBJECT: Prenatal Tdap Vaccine “Starter Kits”

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) is providing “starter kits” of state-purchased Tdap vaccine to prenatal providers to begin offering Tdap at their site. Studies show that pregnant women offered vaccination on site are more likely to be immunized than those referred elsewhere.¹ To sustain prenatal immunization efforts in these clinics, CDPH expects that providers will continue to privately purchase and administer Tdap onsite.

To help protect infants from the next pertussis epidemic, we ask you to reach out to all providers serving significant numbers of prenatal Medi-Cal members. To identify these providers, please work closely with your local health department (LHD) Maternal Child and Adolescent Health (MCAH) Program Perinatal Services Coordinators, who in turn work with Comprehensive Perinatal Services Program (CPSP) providers who serve pregnant women with Medi-Cal coverage. Additional provider selection criteria are outlined in the attached letter.

We envision rolling out the pilot program as follows. Immunization Program Staff will:

1. Work with MCAH staff to select a few local prenatal providers.
2. Ask providers to sign the provider agreement/MOU.
3. Provide technical assistance, as needed, to the provider on vaccine management, storage, and handling
4. Coordinate initial vaccine shipments with enrolled providers. Before placing a second order, providers must demonstrate that they have purchased with their own funding an equivalent number of doses.
5. Ensure that the provider is able to bill Medi-Cal (fee-for-service and managed care members) for privately-purchased Tdap, and instruct them to contact the Medi-Cal Managed Care Plan’s [provider services number](#) for any issues that arise. For issues that cannot be resolved by calling the Medi-Cal MCP, ask providers to contact the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) [Office of the Ombudsman](#) at 1-888-452-8609 (office hours are Monday through Friday, 8am to 5pm Pacific Time; excluding holidays) or MMCOmbudsmanOffice@dhcs.ca.gov. DHCS recommends calling the Ombudsman for any issues that require the inclusion of confidential data. If their

¹ https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/wr/mm6638a2.htm?s_cid=mm6638a2_w

issue is still not resolved, they are free to contact Amber Christiansen at amber.christiansen@cdph.ca.gov or (510) 620-3737.

6. Follow up with providers using a designated progress evaluation questionnaire
 - o 1 month after receipt of initial Tdap shipment
 - o 3 months after receipt of initial Tdap shipment or as soon as the provider places a second order (whichever happens first), and
 - o 6 months after receipt of initial Tdap shipment, to ensure they have the tools they need to continue offering Tdap on their own.

The brief follow-up surveys are intended to generate a better understanding how providers can sustain administration of prenatal Tdap, so this pilot project can be modified accordingly and lessons shared across the state.

7. Communicate results of your efforts (including info gathered via the questionnaires) to CDPH and other LHDs via the LHD Prenatal Tdap working, and scan and send all completed questionnaires to Rebeca.Boyte@cdph.ca.gov or fax them to (510) 620-3774 (Attn: Rebeca Boyte).

We look forward to supporting you as you assist local providers to initiate and sustain the administration of prenatal Tdap at their sites. If you have suggestions or would like to discuss this further, please contact Nisha Gandhi at Nisha.Gandhi@cdph.ca.gov or Rebeca Boyte at Rebeca.Boyte@cdph.ca.gov. For more tools about prenatal Tdap vaccination, see the toolkit here: <http://eziz.org/resources/pertussis-promo-materials/prenatal-tdap/>.

Thank you for your continued efforts in promoting prenatal Tdap!

Attachments

1. 2017 Guidelines for SGF Tdap Vaccine
2. 2017 SGF Tdap MOU
3. 1, 3, and 6 month questionnaire