



Whooping Cough Epidemic Anticipated for 2018

DTap, Tdap and Td vaccinations are key to minimizing the impact

A pertussis (whooping cough) epidemic is expected this year due to its cyclic nature, which peaks every three to five years as susceptible persons in a population increase. The 2014 epidemic in California was five times greater than baseline levels and higher among Hispanics.¹ Prior to the pertussis vaccines, about 200,000 children in the United States became sick and 9,000 died.² Adolescents (ages 14 to 17) are expected to be the most vulnerable group in California during the 2018 pertussis epidemic.

Health Net Community Solutions, Inc. is providing information about pertussis vaccines in this update. Ensure your patients are vaccinated to reduce the impact of the anticipated 2018 epidemic.

SYMPTOMS

The following table offers a progression of pertussis symptoms:

Stage	Symptoms
EARLY	Duration of 1 to 2 weeks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cold-like symptoms – runny nose, nasal congestion, sneezing • Low-grade fever • Apnea in young infants • Mild cough
LATER	Duration of 10 weeks or more <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Violent, rapid, persistent coughing that can lead to complications, such as, pneumonia, weight loss, poor bladder control, cracked ribs, and broken blood vessels • Difficult to eat, drink or breathe (apnea) • Vomiting and exhaustion
RECOVERY	Duration of 2 to 3 weeks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Susceptible to other respiratory infections • Cough lessens but can reoccur

¹ CDC at www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6348a2.htm.

² CDC at www.cdc.gov/pertussis/about/faqs.html.

THIS UPDATE APPLIES TO **CAL MEDICONECT** PROVIDERS:

- Physicians
- Participating Physician Groups
- Hospitals
- Ancillary Providers

PROVIDER SERVICES

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 San Diego County – 1-855-464-3572
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PROVIDER COMMUNICATIONS

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VACCINATION SCHEDULE

Herd immunity, a disruption of the spread of disease when a large portion of a population is immune to an infection, does not apply to pertussis. Therefore, it is very important to give all recommended doses for pertussis infection so the disease is less serious, is of shorter duration and has a quicker recovery. The table below shows the recommended ages and dosage schedule for vaccine administration:

Category	DTaP vaccine	Tdap vaccine	Td vaccine
DESCRIPTION	Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis	Tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis	Tetanus, diphtheria
AGE	Initial 5 doses: ages 2, 4, 6, and 15–18 months; 4–6 years	One booster dose: ages 11–12 and adults ages 19–64; each pregnancy at 27–36 weeks	One booster dose: every 10 years after Tdap. If a Tdap was not received at ages 11–12, administer a Tdap instead of a Td shot
BENEFIT	Increases immunity; 5 doses reduces the risk by eight times	Protects infants, birth–2 months. Offers continued protection	Offers continued protection

POTENTIAL RISKS WITHOUT VACCINATION

Because neonates and infants are at the highest risk of serious complications, hospitalization and mortality, educate all health care personnel, patients, family members, and caregivers about the following risks from not vaccinating against pertussis:

- Increases exposure to infection by pertussis bacteria as immunity wanes.
- Increases the severity of pertussis symptoms and infection.
- Decreases protection for the community.
- Eliminates protection for newborns when not received during each pregnancy.
- Reduces protection from an earlier dose without booster shots (Tdap or Td).
- Increases risk of pneumonia, long-lasting bronchitis, seizures, brain damage, and death.

VACCINE CPT CODES

When billing for these vaccines, use the related CPT code listed below:

Vaccine	CPT code	Description
DTAP	90700*	Diphtheria, tetanus toxoids, and acellular pertussis vaccine (DTaP), intramuscular
DT PEDIATRIC	90702	Diphtheria and tetanus toxoids adsorbed (DT), intramuscular
TD ADULT	90714	Tetanus and diphtheria toxoids adsorbed (Td), preservative free, intramuscular
TD ADULT PF	90714	Tetanus and diphtheria toxoids adsorbed (Td), preservative free, intramuscular
TDAP BOOSTER	90715*	Tetanus, diphtheria toxoids and acellular pertussis vaccine (Tdap), intramuscular
TDAP	90715	Tetanus, diphtheria toxoids and acellular pertussis vaccine (Tdap), intramuscular

*Vaccines supplied by the Vaccine for Children (VFC) program, add modifier SL and \$0 charge.

EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

Download or order pertussis educational materials at no cost from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website at www.cdc.gov/pertussis/index.html. Short video clips are available at www.cdc.gov/ncird/media/resources/index.html and www.shotbyshot.org/story-gallery/.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Providers are encouraged to access Health Net's provider portal online at provider.healthnet.com for real-time information, including eligibility verification, claims status, prior authorization status, plan summaries, and more.

If you have questions regarding the information contained in this update, contact the Health Net Provider Services Center by county within 60 days at:

Line of Business	Telephone Number	Email Address
CAL MEDICONNECT – LOS ANGELES COUNTY	1-855-464-3571	provider_services@healthnet.com
CAL MEDICONNECT – SAN DIEGO COUNTY	1-855-464-3572	