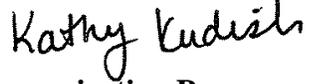




STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM

TO: Community Health Centers – Obstetrics Department

FROM: Mick Bolduc  Kathy Kudish 
Vaccine Coordinator, Immunization Program Epidemiologist, Immunization Program

DATE: June 18, 2013

SUBJECT: Free Tdap Vaccine available from the Connecticut Department of Public Health

- Tdap vaccine is recommended for all pregnant women, preferably during the third trimester of pregnancy.
- Free Tdap vaccine is available for pregnant, post-partum, and close contacts of infants under one year of age from the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) Immunization Program.

Background

Public health officials recommend pertussis (whooping cough) vaccination for all persons who have close contact with infants. This strategy is known as “cocooning” i.e. putting a protective cocoon of immunity around the infant. Studies have shown that infants with pertussis are often infected by their parents, particularly their mothers, at least half of the time. Therefore vaccinating parents against pertussis is an important way to protect infants.

Updated Tdap Vaccine Recommendation for Pregnant Women

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recently published its *Updated Recommendations for Use of Tetanus Toxoid, Reduced Diphtheria Toxoid, and Acellular Pertussis Vaccine (Tdap) in Pregnant Women — Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), 2012*; the full statement is available at:

http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6207a4.htm?s_cid=mm6207a4_e.

ACIP now recommends a dose of Tdap during each pregnancy. To maximize the maternal antibody response and passive antibody transfer to the infant, the best timing for Tdap administration is between 27 and 36 weeks gestation, although Tdap may be given at any time during pregnancy. Note that the indications on the Tdap package inserts remain for single dose use only.

For women not previously vaccinated with Tdap, if it is not administered during pregnancy, Tdap should be administered immediately postpartum. **At this time additional Tdap doses are only recommended for women who are pregnant.** Currently the recommendation concerning additional Tdap doses among non-pregnant individuals is under discussion by the ACIP. Please check the ACIP web page available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/acip/default.htm> for the latest updates.

Tdap Cocoon Program

The Connecticut DPH Immunization Program established the Tdap Cocoon Program to protect newborns during the summer of 2008. The Program’s goal is to facilitate the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practice’s (ACIP) recommendations for cocooning, which have changed over time. Initially the focus was post-partum vaccination of mothers and other close contacts. However, in light of the recommendation for a dose of Tdap during pregnancy, we would like to ensure that Tdap vaccine is available to all pregnant community health center patients.

Tdap vaccine is available **free of cost** to community health centers, birth hospitals and referral sites. Enrolled sites cannot charge for the vaccine, but can charge a vaccine administration fee not to exceed \$21. Vaccine can be ordered on the Tdap Cocoon Program Vaccine Order Form (VOF), which is attached with this memo and is also available on our web site at www.ct.gov/dph/immunizations; click on the “Tdap Cocoon Program” icon. We also ask that you report doses administered by category (see VOF). Tdap doses administered to patients during pregnancy should be shared with the birth hospital so that unnecessary post-partum doses of vaccine are avoided. Although this program is separate from the Connecticut Vaccine Program (CVP), which provides vaccines for children under the age of 19 years, Tdap vaccine can be ordered using the same PIN number, Provider Agreement and Provider Profile documents which were already signed and collected for 2013 from all community health centers that vaccinate children.

Patient Eligibility

All adults over the age of 18 years who have close contact with infants, but especially pregnant or post-partum women, fathers, adoptive families, and household contacts and caregivers of infants aged less than 12 months are eligible to receive the Tdap vaccine. At this time we are unable to expand the program to include private OB/GYN providers.

Participation in the Tdap Cocoon Program

Sites interested in participating in the Tdap cocoon program that are not currently enrolled should call Kathy Kudish or Mick Bolduc of the Immunization Program at 860 509-7929 for more information about program requirements.

The Immunization Program is committed to continuing the Tdap Cocoon Program well into the calendar year 2014. We will update enrolled sites as to the likelihood of the Program’s continuation beyond that date when we have additional information on funding.

More information, including past communications and a list of referral sites, can be found on the Immunization Program web site at <http://www.ct.gov/dph/immunizations> under the “Tdap Cocoon Program” icon. As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Immunization Program at (860) 509-7929.