## Guidelines for the management of tetanus-prone wounds



## Check tetanus immunisation history Tetanusprone wounds1 Completed primary course<sup>2</sup> No prior tetanus immunisation OR Wounds that may Incomplete primary course<sup>2</sup> OR be contaminated or » Unknown immunisation status infected, penetrating, Tetanusmore than six hours Non-tetanus-OR prone wound1 Tetanus-Non-tetanusprone wound1 old, and with tissue YESprone wound1 prone wound1 Less than 5 years Less than 10 years damage. since last dose or since last dose or booster<sup>3</sup> booster3 No tetanus-containing Requires tetanus immunoglobulin<sup>4</sup> (TIG) vaccine dose needed Non-tetanus-AND ... NO prone wounds1 Wounds that are clean, minor, non-penetrating, Requires tetanus vaccination less than six hours old, Give age appropriate tetanus immunisation immediately and with negligible Up-to-date Not up-to-date and if needed, arrange additional catch-up immunisation<sup>5</sup> tissue damage. with Schedule vaccines with Schedule vaccines Tdap (Boostrix) N.B. If aged 9-10 years OR 11 years immunisation event due, record this dose as Age up to 10 years<sup>5</sup> Age 10 years or older<sup>4</sup> the Schedule Tdap dose on the NIR (i.e., up to the 10th birthday) Tdap (Boostrix)<sup>6,8</sup> DTaP-IPV-HepB/Hib (Infanrix-hexa) OR DTaP-IPV (Infanrix-IPV) OR Tdap (Boostrix)<sup>6,7</sup>

## **Footnotes**

- 1. For guidance identifying types of wounds likely to favour the development of tetanus bacteria (tetanus-prone wounds), refer to section 20.5.6 in the tetanus chapter of the current *Immunisation Handbook*.
- 2. Three doses of tetanus-containing vaccine are required to complete a primary course. If the vaccine course has been interrupted, it may be resumed without repeating prior doses.
- 3. A tetanus booster vaccination is offered at ages 4 years, 11 years in primary care or during year 7 at school, 45 years for adults who have not had four previous tetanus-containing vaccine doses, 65 years, and as part of tetanus-prone wound management.
- 4. Recommendations for the use and dosage of tetanus immunoglobulin (TIG) can be found in table 20.2 in the tetanus chapter of the current *Immunisation Handbook*.
- 5. Vaccine choice will be determined by the vaccine recipient's age at presentation, the antigens required to bring their immunisation status up-to-date, and for children, parent/caregiver consent for administration of the required antigens/vaccines. Refer to the age-appropriate catch-up table in the *Planning immunisation catch-ups* appendix in the current *Immunisation Handbook* for guidance.
- 6. Boostrix is not approved for use as primary immunisation. However, there are no safety concerns associated with Boostrix use in a primary vaccination course.
- 7. Boostrix may be used for primary immunisation of children from 7 years of age, adolescents and adults.
- 8. Boostrix is the only tetanus-containing vaccine available for children from 10 years of age, adolescents and adults.