

# Tetanus Prophylaxis for Wound Management

## 1. Asses the patient's immunization history in Panorama or the eHR viewer Immunization tab:

- ✓ Determine the number of tetanus vaccine doses they previously received.
- ✓ Determine when their last tetanus vaccine dose was given.
- ✓ Ask about adverse events they had following any previous tetanus vaccine or tetanus immune globulin (Tlg) doses.

## 2. Tetanus Prophylaxis Recommendations

| Tetanus Immunization History   | Clean, Minor Wounds        |                  | All Other Wounds           |                  |
|--|----------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|------------------|
|  | Vaccine <sup>1, 2, 6</sup> | Tlg <sup>5</sup> | Vaccine <sup>1, 2, 6</sup> | Tlg <sup>5</sup> |
| Uncertain or less than 3 doses <sup>7</sup>  | Yes                        | No               | Yes                        | Yes <sup>3</sup> |
| 3 or more doses in a vaccine series and less than 5 years since last booster dose                        | No                         | No               | No                         | No <sup>4</sup>  |
| 3 or more doses in a vaccine series and more than 5 years but less than 10 years since last booster dose | No                         | No               | Yes                        | No <sup>4</sup>  |
| 3 or more doses in a vaccine series and more than 10 years since last booster dose                       | Yes                        | No               | Yes                        | No <sup>4</sup>  |

- **Tdap is administered to everyone 7 years and older.** Refer clients to Public Health if they have a contraindication to a pertussis-containing vaccine.
- Refer children **younger than 7 years old** to Public Health for appropriate tetanus-containing vaccines, based on their age and immunization history.
- **Proper wound cleaning is important to prevent tetanus.** Examples: animal bites; wounds from road traffic accidents or caused by rusty/dirt contaminated objects; dirt contaminated wounds (soil, human or animal feces or saliva), puncture wounds; and wounds resulting from crushing, burns and frostbite.
- No, unless individuals are known to have significant humoral immune deficiency state (e.g., HIV, agammaglobulinemia), since immune response to tetanus toxoid may be suboptimal.
- **Administer Tlg ASAP** (up to 21 days after injury) as deep IM injection, using a different syringe and site from the tetanus vaccine.
- If a contraindication exists for receiving a tetanus vaccine, **Tlg must be given** when tetanus vaccine is indicated.
- Refer patient to Public Health to complete their tetanus immunization series.

## 3. Report Prophylactic Treatment

- **All administered vaccines and immune globulins must be reported to Public Health ASAP for entry into Panorama.**
- **Facts sheets for vaccines and immune globulins are available at [saskatchewan.ca](https://saskatchewan.ca).**

