DTaP (Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis) Vaccine

**Use DTaP for children 6 weeks through 6 years of age**

**Schedule**
- Routinely administered at
  - 2, 4, 6, and 15-18* months of age
  - 4-6 years of age**

*The 4th dose of DTaP vaccine can be given at 12 months of age if 6 months has elapsed since the 3rd dose

**A 5th dose is not necessary if the 4th dose was given at/after 4 years of age

**Catch-Up Schedule**
- Minimum intervals between doses:
  - 4 weeks between dose 1 & 2
  - 4 weeks between dose 2 & 3
  - 6 months between dose 3 & 4 (and age 12 months or older)
  - 6 months between dose 4 & 5** (and age 4 years or older)

**Vaccine Administration**
- Intramuscular (IM) injection in the anterolateral thigh or deltoid of the arm
- 1-1.5 inch, 22-25 gauge needle
- Professional judgment is appropriate when selecting needle length
- Can be given simultaneously with other vaccines

**Storage and Handling**
- Store in the refrigerator between 35º-46º F (2º-8ºC)
- Do NOT freeze
- Keep in the original box
- Shake well before use

**WOUND CARE**
- If the wound is not clean and/or not minor & the child is ages 6 weeks through 6 years:
  - Assure the child’s DTaP series is up-to-date
  - Administer DTaP if a dose is needed

**CONTRAINDICATIONS**
- Allergic reaction to a previous dose of DTaP vaccine or a component of the vaccines
- Encephalopathy not due to another cause within 7 days after vaccination with a pertussis-containing vaccine

**PRECAUTIONS**
- Moderate or severe illness
- Fever of 105ºF or higher within 48 hours of vaccination with no identifiable cause
- Collapse or shock like state within 48 hours of vaccination
- Persistent inconsolable crying lasting more than 3 hours within 48 hours of vaccination
- Convulsions with or without fever within 3 days of a vaccination

**FURTHER POINTS**
- Ensure you are using the right vaccine for the right age!
- Different brands of DTaP vaccines can be used if the provider does not know or have the brand of DTaP used for prior doses.
- All doses in the series are needed to ensure protection. Use GRITS reminder/recall for children missing doses of DTaP vaccine
- When using combination vaccines containing DTaP vaccine follow the minimum age (6 weeks) and intervals for each antigen
- DTaP Vaccine Information Statement (VIS), can be found at [http://www.immunize.org/vis/](http://www.immunize.org/vis/)
- A multiple vaccine VIS, “Your Baby’s First Vaccines”, includes DTaP vaccine. It can be used when routine vaccines are given.
  - It may be used for children through 6 years of age
  - This VIS can be used when giving combination vaccines in which the vaccine components are listed on the VIS such as: Pediarix (DTaP-IPV-HepB), Pentacel (DTaP-IPV-Hib) or Kinrix (DTaP-IPV)
  - Give all 4 pages and remember to check the boxes of the vaccines that are to be given
  - The “Multiple Vaccine” VIS, can be found at [http://www.immunize.org/vis/](http://www.immunize.org/vis/)
- Children who have recovered from healthcare documented pertussis do not need additional doses of pediatric pertussis vaccine.

Refer to MMWR: “DTaP: Recommendation for Vaccine use and other Preventive Measures”, 8/8/1991 [www.cdc.gov/vaccines](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines)

Adapted from the Michigan Department of Community Health

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