On-time immunisation is the most important way to prevent pertussis in infants and children.
Please familiarise yourself with the pertussis information outlined in Chapter 14 in the Immunisation Handbook 2014, and refer to your local District Health Board (DHB) recommendations.

Why offer pertussis immunisation to adults?
The goal of the current national pertussis immunisation schedule is to protect those most vulnerable to severe disease, i.e. infants during the first year of life.

Infants can be protected directly by immunisation in early infancy and also indirectly by immunisation of others with whom the infant may come into contact, i.e. by immunising during pregnancy and ‘cocooning’ the infant.

What vaccine do we offer adults wanting pertussis immunisation?
FUNDIED Boostrix® is recommended for pregnant women between 28–38 weeks of every pregnancy, and people with a medical condition specified on the Pharmaceutical Schedule, i.e. individuals post-haematopoietic stem cell transplantation; post-chemotherapy; pre- or post-splenectomy; pre- or post-solid organ transplantation; on renal dialysis or a severely immunosuppressive regimen.

All other adults (those aged 18 years or older) can be offered a booster immunisation using either Boosterix® or Adacel®. They are NOT FUNDIED* and must be ordered on the HCL Non-Funded Vaccine Order Form. They are also non-schedule vaccines and must be prescribed by a doctor.

Can we use Boosterix® stock from the fridge?
The funded Boosterix® from ProPharma can only be used for the 11 year old Schedule immunisation, catch-up immunisation for children aged 7 years to under 18 years; women who are pregnant between 28–38 weeks gestation in every pregnancy, and individuals post-haematopoietic stem cell transplantation; post-chemotherapy; pre- or post-splenectomy; pre- or post-solid organ transplantation; on renal dialysis or a severely immunosuppressive regimen.

Can we claim an administration fee for giving Tdap immunisation to an ineligible adult?
No. You cannot claim an administration fee for an adult non-funded vaccination. You will need to incorporate your vaccine administration fee into the amount being charged to the patient.

Is there a pertussis only vaccine for adults?
Neither pertussis disease nor immunisation provides lifelong immunity. A pertussis immunisation is expected to boost immunity in these people.

What about children and adolescents who are behind with their immunisations?
It is important that children, particularly siblings of young babies, are up to date with their immunisations.

Please refer to the age-appropriate catch-up guide in Appendix 2 of the Immunisation Handbook 2014 when planning a catch-up schedule.

Either Infanrix®-hexa (DTaP-IPV-HepB/Hib) or Infanrix®-IPV (DTaP-IPV) can be used for children less than 10 years of age. Boosterix® (Tdap) can be used for children aged 7 years to under 18 years.#

Vaccine choice will be determined by the antigens required and parental consent.

# Boosterix® is not approved for use in a primary course. However, no safety concerns are expected with off-label use.

References

GET THE FACTS ON IMMUNISATION IMMUNE FACT SHEET FOR VACCINATORS 2016