Guidelines for the management of tetanus-prone wounds

Check tetanus immunisation history

- Completed primary course
- No prior tetanus immunisation OR
- Incomplete primary course OR
- Unknown immunisation status

Dirty wound
- Wounds which may be contaminated, infected, penetrating, more than 6 hours old and/or with extensive tissue damage.

Clean wound
- Wounds less than six hours old, non-penetrating with negligible tissue damage.

» Completed primary course

Dirty
- Less than 5 years since last dose or booster

Clean
- Less than 10 years since last dose or booster

NO

Up-to-date with Schedule vaccines
Td (ADT™ Booster)
N.B. If aged 9–10 years OR 11 year immunisation event due, replace Td with Schedule Tdap (Boostrix®)

No tetanus dose needed

Requires tetanus immunoglobulin (TIG)
AND...

Requires tetanus vaccination
Give age appropriate tetanus immunisation immediately and if needed, arrange additional catch-up immunisation

Age up to 10 years (i.e. up to the 10th birthday)
DTaP-IPV-HepB/Hib (Infanrix®-hexa)
OR
DTaP-IPV (Infanrix®-IPV)

Age 10–18 years (i.e. up to the 18th birthday)
Tdap (Boostrix®)

Age 18 years or older
Td (ADT™ Booster)

Footnotes

1. Three doses of tetanus toxoid-containing vaccine are required to complete a primary course. If the vaccine course has been interrupted it may be resumed without repeating prior doses.
2. A tetanus booster vaccination is offered at ages 4 years, 11 years in primary care or during year 7 at school, 45 and 65 years, and as part of tetanus-prone wound management.
3. Recommendations for the use and dosage of tetanus immunoglobulin (TIG) can be found in Section 19.5.5 of the Immunisation Handbook 2017.
4. Refer to the age appropriate catch-up table in Appendix 2 of the Immunisation Handbook 2017. Vaccine choice will be determined by the child’s age at presentation, the antigens required to bring their immunisation status up-to-date, and parent/caregiver consent for administration of the required antigens/vaccines.
5. Boostrix® may be used for primary immunisation of children aged 7 years to under 10 years.
6. ADT™ Booster, Boostrix® and Adacel® are not licensed for use as primary immunisation. However, there are no safety concerns associated with their use in a primary vaccination course.
7. ADT™ Booster is the only funded tetanus containing catch-up vaccine from 18 years of age. Either Boostrix® or Adacel® can be used as an alternative vaccine to ADT™ Booster, but these vaccines are NOT funded and MUST have been purchased from Healthcare Logistics.