Guidelines for the management of tetanus-prone wounds

Check tetanus immunisation history

» Completed primary course¹

Dirty
Less than 5 years since last dose or booster²

Clean
Less than 10 years since last dose or booster²

NO

 requirements

Yes

No tetanus dose needed

Requires tetanus immunoglobulin³ (TIG)
AND ...

Requires tetanus vaccination
Give age appropriate tetanus immunisation immediately and if needed, arrange additional catch-up immunisation¹,⁴

Age up to 10 years⁴,⁵,⁶
(i.e. up to the 10th birthday)
DTaP-IPV-HepB/Hib (Infanrix®-hexa)
OR
DTaP-IPV (Infanrix®-IPV)

Age 10–18 years⁴
(i.e. up to the 18th birthday)
Tdap (Boostrix®)⁶

Age 18 years or older
Td (ADT™ Booster)⁵,⁷

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 the Tetanus chapter of the current Immunisation Handbook.
4. Refer to the age appropriate catch-up table in the Planning immunisation catch-ups appendix in the current Immunisation Handbook. 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 approved 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 they are NOT funded. Vaccinators MUST have a prescription or standing order to administer these alternative vaccines. They are ordered from Healthcare Logistics.