Guidelines for the management of tetanus-prone wounds

Check tetanus immunisation history

- 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
  - Tdap (Boostrix®)
    N.B. If aged 9–10 years OR 11 year immunisation event due, record this dose as the Schedule Tdap dose on the NIR

- Not up-to-date with Schedule vaccines

YES

- 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

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. Boostrix is not approved for use as primary immunisation. However, there are no safety concerns associated with their use in a primary vaccination course.
7. Boostrix is the only funded tetanus containing catch-up vaccine for adolescents aged 10 years or older and adults.