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NCIRS

National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance
of Vaccine Preventable Diseases

ABN 53 188 579 090

26 March 2009

Use of adult formulations of diphtheria toxoid, tetanus toxoid and pertussis - Boostrix or Adacel - in breast-feeding mothers

Although administration to women who are breast feeding is not specifically mentioned in the product information for either of the available adult formulations of diphtheria toxoid, tetanus toxoid and pertussis (dTpa or Tdap) – Boostrix or Adacel, *The Australian Immunisation Handbook* (AIH) discusses vaccination and breastfeeding in general and there are also specific recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control in the United States.

The current 9th edition of the AIH in *Groups with special vaccination requirements*, page 89 subheading (iii) states that “...there is no evidence of risk to the breastfeeding baby if the mother is vaccinated with any of the live or inactivated vaccines as described in this *Handbook*.” The USA, Canada and UK all have similar statements in their respective immunisation guidelines regarding breastfeeding and vaccination.

The US Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) statement on “Prevention of Pertussis, Tetanus, and Diphtheria Among Pregnant and Postpartum Women and Their Infants” states on page 30 “For women who have not received Tdap previously (including women who are breastfeeding), Tdap is recommended as soon as feasible in the immediate postpartum period to protect the women from pertussis and reduce the risk for exposing their infants to pertussis.”

Breast-feeding mothers can be confident, despite lack of data in the product information, that adult formulations of diphtheria toxoid, tetanus toxoid and pertussis are safe for them and their infants.

Sources of information

9th Edition *The Australian Immunisation Handbook* accessible from
www.immunise.health.gov.au

USA MMWR article <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5704a1.htm>

Canadian Immunization Guidelines on Breastfeeding and immunization
<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/cig-qci/p03-04-eng.php>

UK Green Book select Pertussis chapter from list, using this link
<http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/PublicHealth/Healthprotection/Immunisation/Greenbook>