

Pediatric diphtheria-tetanus toxoid (DT) Vaccine Ordering Protocol

The federal VFC program does not supply DT vaccine to VFC providers. Michigan purchases DT vaccine with special vaccine funds and places the vaccine at McKesson for distribution to MI VFC providers. Very few patients should need DT vaccine and MI has been historically wasting more DT vaccine than is administered. MDHHS has developed the following policy to limit the use of DT and possibly avoid vaccine wastage.

MDHHS VFC program will continue to allow VFC providers to order single dose DT vaccine in MCIR E-ordering. However, a VFC provider must have a VFC-eligible patient who is younger than 7 years of age and has a documented valid contraindication, precaution or reason for delay from a previous dose of pertussis containing vaccine before ordering.

Contraindications to further vaccinations with DTaP are a severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) to a vaccine component or following prior dose of vaccine, and encephalopathy (coma, decreased level of consciousness, prolonged seizures not due to another identifiable cause within 7 days after DTaP vaccination.

Precautions to further doses of pertussis vaccines are moderate to severe illness, temperature 105°F or higher within 48 hours with no other identifiable cause, collapse or shock-like state (hypotonic hypo-responsive episode) within 48 hours, persistent, inconsolable crying lasting 3 hours or longer, occurring within 48 hours, seizure or convulsions with or without fever occurring within 3 days.

Valid Reasons to Delay DTaP vaccine include progressive or unstable neurologic disorder (including infantile spasms), uncontrolled seizures or progressive encephalopathy. Providers should defer DTaP until a treatment regimen has been established and the condition is stabilized. DT can be ordered and given.

A family history of seizures or other neurologic diseases, stable or resolved neurologic conditions (e.g., controlled idiopathic epilepsy, cerebral palsy, and developmental delay) are not contraindications to pertussis vaccinations.

When a provider request for DT is received by an LHD, the LHD staff must contact the provider to assure that the provider has a specific child with a contraindication, precaution or valid reason to delay from a previous pertussis-containing vaccine before approving the order for a single dose of DT vaccine. This information from the provider must be provided to MDHHS before the DT vaccine order will be approved at the MDHHS level.

Providers or LHDs will not be allowed to have DT vaccine on hand for possible future need. DT vaccine will only be approved for a specific child.

This policy will assure that all doses of DT that are shipped to MI VFC providers will be used and will prevent expired doses in provider and LHD sites.