

Diphtheria-Tetanus-Acellular Pertussis Combined Vaccine (dTap) added to the list of provincially-funded vaccines for pharmacists

Beginning **January 1, 2019**, Alberta Health will provincially fund dTap vaccine for pregnant women.

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) and the Alberta Advisory Committee on Immunization (AACI) have recommended dTap immunization for pregnant women during every pregnancy with the following guidance:

- Eligibility limited to pregnant Albertans at any time at or after 13 weeks of gestation, though ideally between 27 and 32 weeks gestation.
- If dTap was provided early in pregnancy (for example, prior to recognition of pregnancy), it is not necessary to re-immunize after 13 weeks of gestation.

Provincially-funded dTap vaccine for pregnant women will be available through Alberta Health Services Public Health and pharmacies across the province in a joint effort to make the vaccine widely accessible. Pregnant women who plan on accessing the vaccine at a pharmacy will need to get a prescription from an eligible prescriber, which may be a pharmacist with APA.

Updates to Alberta Immunization Policy can be accessed at www.health.alberta.ca/professionals/immunization-policy.html

Eligible products

Adacel Injection (DIN 02240255), manufactured by Sanofi Pasteur Limited or Boostrix Injection (DIN 02247600), manufactured by GlaxoSmithKline are eligible products to be submitted under the Alberta Public Health Activities Program (ABPHAP) using **PIN 05666670**.

Eligible products are available through your pharmacy wholesale distributor and are distinguished from vaccine used for private coverage through listing at no charge to the pharmacy. As a reminder, a dispensing fee cannot be claimed, however the Fee for the Assessment for the Administration of a Publically Funded Vaccine is eligible.

Maximum ordering threshold for dTap per order is 10 doses. Product could be supplied in the following formats, both equal one unit: single dose syringe per package or 10-single dose syringes per package.

This vaccine may be provided year round.

Claims processes

Pharmacists are required to submit dTap vaccinations service claims within three business days of administering the vaccine to ensure timely recording of immunization event into Netcare.

A charge of up to \$13 per injectable vaccination service for the Assessment for the Administration of a Publicly Funded Vaccine may be claimed as per the Compensation Plan for Pharmacy Services.

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Netcare should be accessed to validate immunization history, PHNs and demographic information. The individual's personal health number (PHN) will be used to confirm eligibility. Incorrect submission of the client's eligibility will result in claim rejections with the response code of **C8 – No record of this beneficiary.**

All claims must be submitted electronically through the Alberta Blue Cross PRIDE RT claims adjudication system with the following data elements:

- Carrier code 16 (as the third-party plan)
- Group number for all transactions must be 23464, Section 000
- Pharmacy license number
- Pharmacist identification number
- Client number: client's Personal Health Number (PHN) as the client number*
- Client's full name: last and first name
- Client's date of birth
- Client's gender
- Relationship code: should your software require you to enter a relationship code, zero (0) must be used as the default
- Prescriber reference ID number
- Service date
- PIN 05666670
- Quantity

*Clients who do not have a Personal Health Number (PHN) or whose PHN is inactive should be directed to a local AHS Public Health clinic for administration for vaccine.

Only immunization services provided by ACP injection-authorized pharmacists are eligible for this provincially-funded program compensation. Pharmacists may not delegate the administration of provincially-funded vaccines to other health-care professionals (paid or volunteer).

The Alberta Pharmacists' Association will be planning education for this program, which supports pharmacists in understanding dTap. The education program should be completed prior to administering the vaccination and will be available online at www.rxa.ca/professional-development/online-courses.aspx.

When you have questions:

For assistance with benefit or claim inquiries, please contact an Alberta Blue Cross Pharmacy Services Provider Relations contact centre representative at:

780-498-8370 (Edmonton and area) • **403-294-4041** (Calgary and area) • **1-800-361-9632** (toll free)

FAX 780-498-8406 (Edmonton and area) • **FAX 1-877-305-9911** (toll free)

Alberta Blue Cross offers online access to current Pharmacy Benefits and supplemental claiming information to assist with the submission of your direct bill drug claims. **Visit** ab.bluecross.ca/providers/pharmacy-home.php



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