

Problem established:

- Pertussis, a highly contagious, bacterial infection is on the rise in the US.
- Waning immunity from childhood pertussis vaccine leaves most adolescents and adults at risk for pertussis. There are an estimated 3 million cases in the US that are undiagnosed and not reported.
- Significant risk to vulnerable infants due to the limitations of the immunization schedule. Infants are not protected until 6-12 months with their vaccination series so they are susceptible for contracting pertussis.
- CDC data clearly demonstrates that close contacts of infants, moms, dads, siblings, grandparents are the ones infecting the babies. Mom and Dad represent 50% of the source of the disease to their own children.

ACIP Tdap Recommendations:

- All adolescents and adults ages 11-64 years of age to be vaccinated with one dose of Tdap.
- All health care personnel to be vaccinated to protect themselves and their patients.
- Tdap should be given ideally prior to pregnancy, but can be given in 2nd or 3rd trimester. Otherwise, Tdap to be given immediately post partum.
- Tdap can be given if it has been 2 years since the patients last Td. It is not necessary to wait for 5 or 10 years to protect the patient.

Strengths in Community:

- Pennsylvania Department of Health Immunization Program provides free Tdap to anyone 19-64 at any of the Pennsylvania local health departments and state health centers, excluding Philadelphia. This removes the barrier of cost and access for those eligible.
- Pennsylvania Department of Health offers free Tdap to PA birthing hospitals through their Tot Trax program to all moms prior to discharge. Philadelphia Health Department is also offering Tdap at no charge to Philadelphia birthing hospitals that wish to take advantage of this opportunity.
- Pennsylvania Department of Health offers free Tdap and Hepatitis B information for any birthing hospitals. Sanofi provided folder with non-branded materials that are available as well.
- Pennsylvania and Philadelphia Health Department work to communicate any newborn deaths due to pertussis to the health care providers and hospitals.
- Philadelphia and PA WIC offices offering pertussis educational material to their patients, as well as utilizing the Sounds of Pertussis PSA in their waiting room.

Barriers to immunization:

- More local medical provider education needed to better understand the problem and the recommendations.
- Non-Medical community does not know about the risk they pose to their infants – education needed.
- Mom receiving a lot of information in the first 48 hrs after giving birth that it may be difficult to remember to inform close contacts of the need to be immunized.

- Dads and other close contacts are not being immunized. Often have no medical home and are not frequently seen in the office.
- Dads can't be immunized when moms or babies are in the office unless they are an established patient in the practice.
- Dads or Close contacts can not get immunized with Tdap while mom is still in the hospital- no mechanism in place.
- More Tdap education needs to be done to OB-GYN physicians and their staff.
- Tdap vaccine should be mandatory for all healthcare workers, similar to how influenza is becoming.

Best Practices currently being done:

- Conduct joint Grand Rounds in the hospital with Pediatrics, OBGYN, Family Medicine. Immediately following GR, have employee health there offering Tdap to other physicians, residents and other hospital staff.
- Making Tdap a standing order with only an "opt out option" for all new moms prior to discharge.
- Utilize the Pertussis protection DVD or Sounds of Pertussis PSA on the "new mom" channel (breast feeding, SIDS) that they can watch before discharge.
- Be "models" for your patients. Get vaccinated with Tdap as a Health Care Professional.
- Have a vaccine "Champion" established in your office, hospital or department.
- Vaccinate with Tdap if it has been 2 years since their last Td.
- Give Tdap along with influenza vaccination.
- Provide pertussis and Tdap education in the birthing classes prior to delivery.
- Don't delay vaccination as patients who are currently insured could lose their insurance and then not be able to afford the vaccine in the future.
- Update newborn and early infant checklists to include a reminder to "ask moms and dads if they have received their Tdap".
- Get your front desk staff involved. Have the receptionist at check-in provide a brochure or flyer to your new moms and families.
- Have the nurse ask mom and dad when checking baby's height and weight if they have been vaccinated with Tdap.
- Immunize dads who accompany moms to prenatal visit (if not a patient refer to health department)