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## Information for Consumers on Adult Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis (Whooping Cough) Vaccination

### Immunisation

Immunisation uses the body's natural defense mechanism to build resistance to infection. Pertussis vaccine contains inactive particles that stimulate the immune system. The vaccine also provides protection against diphtheria and tetanus.

### Safety of the vaccine

Pertussis vaccine meets Australia's Therapeutic Goods Administration requirements.

### Time between adult pertussis vaccinations

Persons in contact with infants and others at risk from pertussis should consider immunisation if 10 years have lapsed since a previous dose. Adult household contacts of infants under 6 months of age should ideally receive a pertussis vaccine at least 2 weeks before close contact with the infant. Pregnant women should receive the vaccine in the third trimester of pregnancy.

### Adverse effects of adult pertussis vaccine

Pertussis vaccines are safe and well tolerated in adults. Adverse effects are usually mild and clear in 1-2 days. The vaccination site may become red and sore. There may also be itching, bruising or mild swelling.

In rare cases, people may experience fainting and swelling of their limbs. Weakness and numbness of the arm has also be reported, but this is rare. If you have concerns, please contact your general practitioner.

### Consumers who should **NOT** have pertussis vaccine

If there is:

- A known severe allergic reaction to any of the vaccine components
- A known severe allergic reaction to a pertussis vaccine in the past

### After Care

It is recommended that the consumer stay close by for 15 minutes to ensure safety.

### Can I receive free pertussis vaccine under the National Immunisation Program?

Pertussis vaccine is not usually available free from your GP. However, ACT Health will provide a free pertussis vaccine to all pregnant women in their third trimester of pregnancy, under the ACT Antenatal Pertussis Vaccination Program (GP May charge a consultation fee).

### Questions

If there are any questions please ask your pharmacist.



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