

## Steps to Preventing Infant Pertussis: The Critical Role of Managed Care Plans

Did you know that a pertussis epidemic is coming to California? Use the steps in the [Prenatal Tdap Program letter](#) to urge prenatal care providers to implement a prenatal Tdap immunization program.\* Tdap vaccination should be given at the earliest opportunity between 27-36 weeks gestation of every pregnancy to protect infants in early life.

Here are some additional steps Medi-Cal Managed Care Plans can take:

- If a provider **stocks Tdap**, help them offer Tdap to all women on site:
  - Remove mandatory referral requirements to primary care providers
  - Ensure adequate reimbursement arrangements
- If a provider **does NOT stock Tdap**, help them
  - Refer women to in-network pharmacies.
    - Remind them of the [pharmacy benefit](#) for all adult immunizations.
    - Provide a list of pharmacies that stock Tdap and administer to pregnant women.
    - Encourage providers to promote the new transportation assistance benefit by displaying [this poster](#).
  - Follow up to ensure that Tdap was administered. Encourage providers to submit an e-Rx or written Rx to help close the loop. Free [Rx pads](#) can be ordered through their local health department ([bit.do/immunization](http://bit.do/immunization)).
  - Start to stock Tdap by offering grants for fridges (See the Central California Alliance for Health [grant program](#) as an example) and join [vaccine purchasing groups](#).
- Follow up to address barriers and potential quality of care issues when an MCP member did not receive prenatal Tdap and her baby developed pertussis. †
- Analyze Tdap vaccination rates among pregnant members to establish a baseline and track progress. †

The following resources can also support your efforts:

- A [prenatal Tdap immunization flyer](#) showcasing numerous FREE patient education materials and provider resources
- A [modifiable declination form](#) template for providers to document patient refusal of prenatal Tdap and/or flu vaccination, as required by DHCS.<sup>§</sup>
- A [report](#) featuring self-reported prenatal Tdap and flu vaccine rates among California women who gave birth in 2015

Together we can prevent infant pertussis in California!

\* Requirement for all Medi-Cal prenatal care providers: Medi-Cal Provider Manual, Immunizations, [immun \(18\)](#)

† DHCS contracts require that MCPs ensure prenatal care providers are following the most current American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) standards. [Two Plan Boilerplate](#) – Exhibit A, Attachment 4, Section 4

‡ [Two Plan Boilerplate](#) – Exhibit A, Attachment 10, Section 7A

§ [Two Plan Boilerplate](#) – Exhibit A, Attachment 10, Section 6C.