

Tetanus Prophylaxis in Wound Management

1. Assess patient's immunization history

- Determine number of tetanus-containing vaccine previously given
- Determine when the last dose of tetanus-containing vaccine was given
- Ask about any previous adverse reactions following tetanus-containing vaccine

2. Assess wound and perform thorough wound cleaning

3. Offer prophylaxis if needed:

History of Tetanus immunization	For Clean Minor Wounds		For All Other Wounds ⁴	
	Tetanus-containing vaccine ¹	Tetanus Immunoglobulin (TIG)	Tetanus-containing vaccine ¹	TIG ²
Unknown or less than 3 doses in a vaccine series ¹	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
3 or more doses in a vaccine series and less than 5 years since last booster dose	No	No	No	No ³
3 or more doses in a vaccine series and more than 5 years but less than 10 years since last dose	No	No	Yes	No ³
3 or more doses in a vaccine series and more than 10 years since last booster dose	Yes	No	Yes	No ³

References: Canadian Immunization Guide Part 4 Tetanus, and American Academy of Pediatrics (Red Book)

¹ Refer to NS Immunization schedule for specific tetanus-containing vaccine recommendation based on age.

² Given at different injection sites using separate needles and syringes.

³ People with this type of wound who have significant humoral immune deficiency should be given TIG even if fully immunized.

⁴ Cases of tetanus can be associated with lacerations (most frequent), injection drug use, and animal bites, blunt trauma or deep puncture wounds. Although any open wound is a potential source of tetanus, wounds contaminated with dirt, feces, soil, or saliva are at increased risk. Punctures and wounds containing devitalized tissue, including necrotic or gangrenous wounds, frostbite, crush and avulsion injuries, and burns, are particularly conducive to *C. tetani* infection.

4. Report vaccine and TIG administered to Public Health

Western Zone

South Shore
Tel: 902-543-0850
Fax: 902-527-4208

South West
Tel: 902-742-7141
Fax: 902-742-3083

Annapolis Valley
Tel: 902-542-6310
Fax: 902-542-4429

Northern Zone

Colchester East Hants
Tel: 902-893-5820
Fax: 902-893-2614

Cumberland
Tel: 902-667-3319
Fax: 902-893-2614

Pictou County
Tel: 902-752-5151
Fax: 902-893-2614

Eastern Zone

Guysborough/Antigonish
Tel: 902-867-4500
ext.4800
Fax: 902-863-5111

Cape Breton
Tel: 902-563-2400
Fax: 902-563-2005

Central Zone

Tel: 902-481-5800
Fax: 902-481-5889

