

Tetanus Prophylaxis in Wound Management

All patients 7 years of age and older

► **Tdap** (tetanus toxoid, reduced diphtheria toxoid & pertussis vaccine)

History of Previous Tetanus Immunization	Clean, Minor Wounds	All Other Wounds ¹
Uncertain or fewer than 3 doses²	Tdap	Tdap and TIG³
3 or more previous doses²	Tdap unless documented prior receipt of Tdap⁴	

Age of Patient	Vaccine Type	How to Give
<7 years old	DTaP	Intramuscular Injection 1 inch needle, 23-25 gauge
► 7 years of age or older (including anyone >64 years old or pregnant)	Tdap	

(Use Td vaccine instead of Tdap or DTaP only if the patient has a [contraindication to pertussis vaccine](#), such as a life-threatening allergic reaction to a prior dose or component of pertussis vaccine)

footnotes

¹All other wounds can include: wounds contaminated with dirt, feces, soil, and saliva; puncture wounds; avulsions; and wounds caused by missiles, crushing, burns, and frostbite.

²ACIP and AAP recommendations permit any interval between doses of Td and Tdap. For more information, visit [EZIZ.org](#).

³Tetanus Immune Globulin (TIG). The recommended prophylaxis dose for wounds of average severity is 250 units intramuscularly. When both tetanus toxoid containing vaccine and TIG are administered at the same time, use separate syringes and injection sites. (Note that therapeutic dose of TIG in patients with tetanus symptoms is 3000–6000 units.)

⁴Tdap recommended for patients with wounds that are **not** clean or minor if they last received a dose of tetanus-containing vaccine 5 or more years ago.