Prenatal Care Provider Pertussis Template Letter

Provider Name

Provider Address

Date

Dear Dr. [Provider’s Name]:

As you know, I take care of infants of mothers who receive prenatal care from your practice. In the last several years, infant pertussis infection has been on the rise resulting in hospitalizations and possible death. **I am contacting you to discuss ways we can collaborate to help keep our patients healthy.**

As you may be aware, [ACOG,](https://www.acog.org/Resources-And-Publications/Committee-Opinions/Committee-on-Obstetric-Practice/Update-on-Immunization-and-Pregnancy-Tetanus-Diphtheria-and-Pertussis-Vaccination) [CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/pregnant/index.html), and the [California Department of Public Health](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/pertussis.aspx) recommend that women receive Tdap immunization at the earliest opportunity between 27 and 36 weeks gestation of **every** pregnancy, regardless of Tdap history. Transplacental transfer of pertussis antibodies from mother to infant can provide protection against pertussis before infants receive the first dose of diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (DTaP) immunization at age 6-8 weeks.

[Rates of prenatal immunization](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/wr/mm6638a2.htm?s_cid=mm6638a2_w) are highest when prenatal care providers recommend and administer immunizations onsite rather than refer off site. If your clinic is not currently stocking Tdap, please contact me for advice in joining a [vaccine purchasing group](https://www.aap.org/en-us/advocacy-and-policy/aap-health-initiatives/immunizations/Practice-Management/Pages/managing-costs.aspx) and other tips to make it financially viable to immunize. If stocking Tdap is not feasible, please refer your patients to a [pharmacy](https://vaccinefinder.org/) for immunization (as of August 2016, Medi-Cal covers adult immunizations as both a [medical and pharmacy](http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/Documents/MMCDAPLsandPolicyLetters/APL2016/APL16-009R.pdf) benefit). You can find in-network pharmacies by asking office staff to call the patient’s health plan member services.

For additional information, I recommend these resources from

CDPH: <http://eziz.org/assets/docs/CDPH-DHCSletterPrenatalTdap.pdf>

ACOG: <http://www.immunizationforwomen.org/>

CDPH: <http://eziz.org/resources/pertussis-promo-materials/tdap-webinar-obs/>CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/pregnant/index.html>

Your partner in health,