

Use the correct DTPa and dTpa containing vaccines

Age and vaccine information for immunisation providers



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Key messages

- **DTPa**, using capital letters, signifies a child formulation of diphtheria, tetanus and acellular pertussis-containing vaccine.
- **dTpa** signifies a formulation that contains substantially less diphtheria toxoid and pertussis antigens than the child formulation.
- Adolescents and adults usually receive reduced antigen dTpa vaccine because they generally respond better to diphtheria toxoid and require lower doses to establish or maintain immunity.
- National Immunisation Program diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis-containing vaccine recommendations are subject to a person's age.
- Prior to administration, check the person's immunisation history to determine the vaccine brand used in previous primary doses administered. Complete the primary course of vaccination with the same vaccine brand where possible.
- Always check that vaccines are prepared and administered appropriately in accordance with product instructions and recommendations in the [Australian Immunisation Handbook](#).
- Use this resource in conjunction with the [Immunisation schedule Victoria and vaccine eligibility criteria](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/immunisation/immunisation-schedule-victoria-and-vaccine-eligibility-criteria) <<https://www.health.vic.gov.au/immunisation/immunisation-schedule-victoria-and-vaccine-eligibility-criteria>>.

DTPa containing vaccine - Childhood formulation, under 10 years of age



Diphtheria-tetanus-acellular pertussis-hepatitis B-poliomyelitis-Hib (DTPa-hepB-IPV-Hib)

Age recommendation	Infanrix hexa®	Vaxelis®
<p>Routine vaccination</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 months (from 6 weeks) • 4 months • 6 months <p>Catch up vaccination</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children <10 years 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prefilled syringe of diluent contains DTPa-hepB-IPV • Vial contains Haemophilus influenzae type b • Reconstitution required • Light sensitive 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prefilled syringe of diluent DTPa-hepB-IPV-Hib • Reconstitution not required • Light sensitive


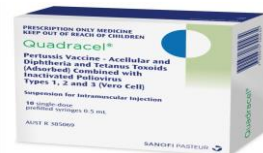
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Check you are using the correct DTPa and dTpa containing vaccines

DTPa



Age recommendation	Infanrix®	Tripacel®
Routine vaccination <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18 months Catch up vaccination <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children <10 years 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prefilled syringe of diluent contain DTPa • Reconstitution not required 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vial of diluent contain DTPa • Reconstitution not required

DTPa-poliomyelitis (DTPa-IPV)

Age recommendation	Infanrix IPV®	Quadracel®
Routine vaccination <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 years Catch up vaccination <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children <10 years 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prefilled syringe of diluent contain DTPa-IPV • Reconstitution not required • Light sensitive 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prefilled syringe of diluent contain DTPa-IPV • Reconstitution not required

dTpa containing vaccine - Adolescent/Adult formulation, 10 years of age and older

Reduced antigen content diphtheria-tetanus-acellular pertussis (dTpa)

Age recommendation	Adacel®	Boostrix®
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 7 of secondary school or 12 – 13 years • 10 to <20 years for catch-up • Pregnant woman from 20 weeks' gestation • Refugee / asylum seeker person ≥10 years • Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person ≥10 years 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prefilled syringe of diluent contain dTpa • Adults can receive 1 dose of dTpa vaccine at least 4 weeks after a dose of dT vaccine for pertussis protection • Reconstitution not required 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prefilled syringe of diluent contain dTpa • Adults can receive 1 dose of dTpa vaccine at least 4 weeks after a dose of dT vaccine for pertussis protection • Reconstitution not required • Light sensitive

Reference

Content adapted from the Australian Immunisation Handbook, Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care, Canberra, 2023, <<https://immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au>>.

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