

## **TETANUS DIPHTHERIA TOXOIDS ADSORBED VACCINE**

**TETANUS** is a potentially fatal disease caused by a clostridium tetani neurotoxin found in soil and animal intestines. When introduced into wounds, muscle spasm occurs. While peripheral wound infections usually lead to recovery 40% of head wounds are fatal. The disease is completely preventable by immunization. Primary immunization in Canada has existed since 1940. A booster injection every ten years (5 years after a dirty wound) will continue protection. The last tetanus death occurred in 1995.

**DIPHTHERIA** is an infrequently occurring disease that may produce a myocarditis and neuropathy from an exotoxin produced by corynebacterium diphtheriae. The germ is spread by respiratory secretion and usually causes an upper airway infection starting with a sore throat covered by a grey membrane. The disease used to be fatal, but it can now be treated with penicillin if used before the development of myocarditis – induced cardiac arrhythmias, heart block, heart failure and neuropathy – induced diplopia, slurring and swallowing difficulties. Immunization in Canada has been widely available since the 1930's and no death has occurred since 1983.

**TD VACCINE EFFECTIVENESS** wanes with time, but booster doses restore immunity. In those primarily immunized, a single booster dose provides 100% tetanus and 99% diphtheria immunity four weeks post - vaccination.

**INDICATIONS FOR A BOOSTER DOSE** of vaccine are any persons, primarily immunized, who have not had a dose of TD vaccine for ten years (or five years if suffering from a dirty wound). It should also be given as a first dose of a primary course of immunization to any previously non-immunized person.

**CONTRAINDICATIONS** to TD vaccination are simply febrile illnesses causing body temperature of 38.5 degrees C in the absence of antipyretics, aluminium hydroxide or formaldehyde or a prior anaphylactic reaction to a prior TD vaccination.

**ADVERSE REACTIONS**, apart from discomfort, in 3% or fewer cases include local pain, swelling, redness and induration at the injection site. Headaches, chills, malaise, muscle aches, nausea and abdominal or joint pain occur in 5% or fewer cases.

### **CONSENT**

I have read this information and understand the benefits and the risks involved. I have been given the opportunity to ask questions to clarify any misunderstandings that I might have had about this vaccine. I agree to the administration of Tetanus and Diphtheria Adsorbed vaccine.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_ Witness \_\_\_\_\_