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MEMORANDUM

To: Primary Care Providers and Obstetrics/Gynecology Providers

From: Ann Kern, Provider Services Network Manager

Date: July 10, 2014

Subject: Pertussis is Widespread in California

A pertussis epidemic has been declared in California in 2014. As of June 24, 4,558 pertussis cases had been reported to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH); more than the number of cases reported in all of 2013.

Alliance Recommendation-Vaccinate Your Pregnant Women and Pediatric Patients

Prenatal care providers should follow the federal Advisory Committee Immunization Practices (ACIP), American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), and the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) recommendations to immunize all pregnant women between 27 and 36 weeks gestation with Tdap vaccine during each pregnancy.

Infants should be vaccinated against pertussis with the DTaP vaccine as soon as possible. The first dose is routinely recommended at two months of age, but can be given as early as six weeks.

A Tdap booster is recommended for adolescents at age 11-12 years.

Adults who haven't yet received a Tdap should receive it, especially if they are in contact with infants or if they are health care workers who may have contact with infants or pregnant women.

Best practices for preventing pertussis-related complications and deaths include,

- Immunizing your patient during prenatal care visits at the point of care,
- If not immunizing in the office, writing a prescription or directly referring your patient to a convenient immunization site that is in network and has no out-of-pocket costs,
- Including Tdap and other immunizations in your standard prenatal care checklists, and
- Utilizing the California Immunization Registry (CAIR) to share immunization records with other providers.

The following materials may be of assistance in advising your patients about Pertussis and immunization:

- Immunization Toolkits, http://www.immunizationforwomen.org/resources/acog_resources
- Training modules on proper vaccine storage, handling, and immunization techniques, <http://eziz.org/eziz-training/>
- Patient education materials
 - Whooping Cough: What You Need to Know, <http://eziz.org/assets/docs/IMM-1023.pdf> (English) http://bit.ly/1023S_6-14 (Spanish)
 - Immunizations for a Health Pregnancy, http://bit.ly/887_6-14 (English) <http://bit.ly/887S6-14> (Spanish)
 - Expecting? Protect Your Baby from Whooping Cough, <http://bit.ly/1qq9EZn> (English) <http://bit.ly/UK2ofW> (Spanish)