

A Tetanus prone wound/burn includes the following wounds :

- ♣More than six hours old. ♣Significant devitalised tissue. ♣Puncture type wounds
- ♣Contact with soil or manure. ♣ Clinical evidence of sepsis.

STATUS OF PATIENT'S IMMUNISATION	INDICATION FOR NON TETANUS PRONE WOUND	INDICATION FOR TETANUS PRONE WOUND	
	Td VACCINE	Td VACCINE	HUMAN TETANUS IMMUNOGLOBULIN
<b>Full immunisation</b> i.e. has received a total of 5 doses of tetanus vaccine at appropriate intervals as a single antigen/combined vaccine (See table on Immunisation Schedules)	Nil See note *5	Nil See note *5	Administer 250iu or 500iu of HTIG by SLOW i.m injection if the wound is thought to be of particularly high risk (e.g. contaminated with stable manure) See notes *1 *2 *3 and *4 overleaf
<b>Primary immunisation complete, boosters incomplete but up to date</b>  <b>If child aged 15 – 18 also:</b> Complete form for Child Health Department Refer to GP for Oral Polio Booster	Nil, unless next dose due soon. Then administer: 0.5ml of Tetanus/ Low Dose Diphtheria Vaccine for Adults and Adolescents by I.M. injection.  See note *4.	Nil, unless next booster due soon. Then administer: 0.5ml of Tetanus/ Low Dose Diphtheria Vaccine for Adults and Adolescents by I.M. injection.  See note *4.	Administer 250iu or 500iu of HTIG by SLOW i.m injection if the wound is thought to be of particularly high risk (e.g. contaminated with stable manure)  See notes *1 *2 *3 and *4 overleaf
<b>Primary immunisation incomplete or booster NOT up to date</b>  <b>If child aged 15 – 18 also:</b> Complete form for Child Health Department Refer to GP for Oral Polio Booster	<b>If 15 years and over:</b> Administer: 0.5ml of Tetanus/ Low Dose Diphtheria Vaccine for Adults and Adolescents by I.M. injection.  Further doses as required to complete recommended immunisation schedule  <b>If less than 15 years:</b> Refer back to GP for urgent assessment	<b>If 15 years and over:</b> Administer: 0.5ml of Tetanus/ Low Dose Diphtheria Vaccine for Adults and Adolescents by I.M. injection.  Further doses as required to complete recommended immunisation schedule  <b>If less than 15 years:</b> Refer back to GP for urgent assessment	Administer: 250iu/500iu of HTIG by SLOW I.M. injection See note *3
<b>Not immunised or immunisation status not known or uncertain</b> See note *5	<b>If 15 years and over:</b> Administer: 0.5ml of Tetanus/ Low Dose Diphtheria Vaccine for Adults and Adolescents by I.M. injection.  If required, completion of a full 3 dose course of Td vaccine.  <b>If less than 15 years:</b> Refer back to GP for urgent assessment	<b>If 15 years and over:</b> Administer: 0.5ml of Tetanus/ Low Dose Diphtheria Vaccine for Adults and Adolescents by I.M. injection.  If required, completion of a full 3 dose course of Td vaccine.  <b>If less than 15 years:</b> Refer back to GP for urgent assessment	Administer: 250iu/500iu of HTIG by SLOW I.M. injection See note *3

## NOTES

\*1

Patients falling into the following categories should receive 500iu of HTIG if they fulfil the following criteria:

- weighing more than 90 kgs
- heavily contaminated wounds
- wounds more than 24 hours old
- severe burns ( Although severe burns are not within the remit of the ENP )

\*2

A second dose of HTIG should be given at 3-4 weeks if:

- a) Td vaccination is contraindicated
- b) reduced capacity for antibody formation e.g. radiotherapy, steroids, severe burns or *dysgammaglobulinaemia*, *hypogammaglobulinaemia* or *agammaglobulinaemia*.

\*3

If Tetanus/Low Dose Diphtheria Vaccine and Human Tetanus Immunoglobulin are to be given it is necessary for the injections to be administered in different sites, thus preventing the suppression of the development of active immunity.

\*4

Patients who have a bleeding disorder should have their Tetanus/ Low Dose Diphtheria Vaccine injections given by subcutaneous rather than intramuscular route.

\*5 Immunisation Schedules

SCHEDULE	CHILDREN	ADULTS
PRIMARY COURSE	3 doses of Td vaccine (usually as DTP) at 2,3 and 4 months of age	3 doses of Td vaccine each one month apart
4 <sup>TH</sup> DOSE	At least 3 years after the primary course, usually pre school entry (as DtaP)	Td vaccine 10 years after primary course
5 <sup>TH</sup> DOSE	Aged 13-18 years before leaving school (as Td)	Td vaccine 10 years after 4 <sup>th</sup> dose

For both Tetanus and Diphtheria a total of 5 doses of vaccine at the appropriate intervals are considered to give lifelong immunity. A Td vaccine given at the time of a tetanus prone wound may not boost immunity early enough to give additional protection within the incubation period of tetanus.

Anyone commencing a Td course within the department should be referred back to their GP for additional doses 1 month after the first injection and again at 2 months after the first injection. Complete Tetanus patient information leaflet.