

GPs part of the solution for reducing neonatal pertussis

- Only one third of pregnant women in Auckland receive a maternal pertussis vaccination
- Not receiving a clear recommendation and low awareness are the major causes
- GPs are urged to set a recall in the patient management system for Tdap 'Boostrix' during their **first** consultation with pregnant women
- A maternal boostrix should be encouraged for every pregnancy
- Take every opportunity to encourage this vaccination when pregnant women are in the practice

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GPs play a crucial role in helping to reduce newborn pertussis with their patient recall system.

GPs are usually the first point of contact for women at the early stages of pregnancy. The first consultation is an ideal time to set a recall for maternal vaccination in the third trimester.

Latest research shows that only one-third of all pregnant women in Auckland are receiving this important vaccination, with Maori and Pacific women well below the average rate.

Lack of patient awareness for this vaccine and the absence of a clear recommendation from a trusted health professional were cited as important reasons why women are not immunised according to a recent Christchurch study*. Read more [here](#).

GPs are urged to set a patient recall for Boostrix immunisation at the time of the *first* consultation with pregnant women.

Local and international studies have shown the maternal vaccination to be safe and effective at protecting newborn infants from pertussis (vaccine efficacies of 91-93%). See links below:

- [Safety of Tdap vaccine in pregnant women: an observational study](#)
- [Safety of pertussis vaccination in pregnant women in the UK: observational study](#)
- [A study to estimate the effectiveness of maternal pertussis vaccination in protecting babies](#)

Free pertussis resources aimed at pregnant women and mothers are available for your waiting room:

- Poster: [Protecting baby starts in pregnancy](#)
- Brochure: [Immunise against whooping cough](#)

*Factors influencing women's decisions about having the Pertussis vaccine during pregnancy by L. Hill