

# **Administration of low-dose diphtheria, tetanus and inactivated poliomyelitis vaccine (Td/IPV)**

## **Patient group direction (PGD) template**

Publication date: 18 February 2026

Expiry date: 28<sup>th</sup> February 2029

PGD Number: 2026/2911

**Version 3.0**



Translations



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## Most recent changes

Version	Date	Summary of changes
3.0	18 February 2026	<p>The following changes to version 2.1 of the PGD have been made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Minor rewording, layout and formatting changes for clarity and consistency with other PHS PGDs</li><li>• Cautions section updated to remove detail on immunisation of individuals who have experienced encephalopathy or encephalitis within 7 days of previous immunisation to align with updated Green Book chapter</li></ul>

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## Authorisation

### PGD for administration of low-dose diphtheria, tetanus and inactivated poliomyelitis vaccine (Td/IPV)


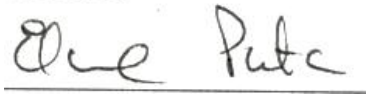
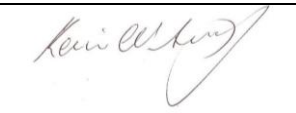
This specimen Patient Group Direction (PGD) template has been produced by Public Health Scotland to assist NHS Boards. NHS Boards should ensure that the final PGD is considered and approved in line with local clinical governance arrangements for PGDs.

The qualified health professionals who may administer low-dose diphtheria, tetanus and inactivated poliomyelitis vaccine (Td/IPV) under this PGD can only do so as named individuals. It is the responsibility of each professional to practice within the bounds of their own competence and in accordance with their own Code of Professional Conduct and to ensure familiarity with the manufacturer's product information/Summary of Product Characteristics (SmPC) for all vaccines administered in accordance with this PGD. NHS Board governance arrangements will indicate how records of staff authorised to operate this PGD will be maintained. Under PGD legislation there can be no delegation. Administration of the vaccine has to be by the same practitioner who has assessed the patient under the PGD.

This PGD has been produced for NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde by:

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Effective from: 1 March 2026

Expires: 28 February 2029

## 1. Clinical situation

### 1.1. Indication

Immunisation of individuals from 10 years of age, against diphtheria, tetanus and poliomyelitis.

### 1.2. Inclusion criteria

Individuals aged 10 years and over who:

- require a booster following a primary course of immunisation against diphtheria, tetanus and poliomyelitis (this booster is usually offered at 13 to 18 years of age, unless the course has already been completed).
- have uncertain or incomplete immunisation status in accordance with the **vaccination of individuals with uncertain or incomplete immunisation status** flow chart.
- have a tetanus-prone wound and tetanus immunisation is recommended in accordance with **Guidance on the management of suspected tetanus cases and on the assessment and management of tetanus-prone wounds**

or tetanus boosters are due soon and it is convenient to give now (see The Green Book Tetanus **Chapter (30)**).

- require vaccination in line with recommendations for the management of cases and contacts of diphtheria or polio on the advice from individual Board Health Protection Team in accordance with **Public health control and management of diphtheria in England guidelines** or **National polio guidelines: local and regional services**.
- Individuals who have received a haematopoietic stem cell transplant or CAR-T therapy and who require revaccination, in accordance with the **Scottish Haematology Society Revaccination Schedule**.

Valid consent has been given to receive the vaccine.

### **1.3. Exclusion criteria**

Individuals who:

- are aged less than 10 years.
- have had a confirmed anaphylactic reaction to a previous dose of diphtheria, tetanus or poliomyelitis containing vaccine, including any conjugate vaccines where diphtheria or tetanus toxoid is used in the conjugate.
- have had a confirmed anaphylactic reaction to any component of the vaccine, including neomycin, streptomycin or polymyxin B.
- have a history of severe (i.e. anaphylactic reaction) to latex where the vaccine is not latex free.
- are suffering from acute severe febrile illness (the presence of a minor infection is not a contraindication for immunisation).

### **1.4. Cautions/need for further advice/ circumstances when further advice should be sought from a doctor**

The Green Book advises that there are very few individuals who cannot receive low-dose diphtheria, tetanus and inactivated poliomyelitis vaccine (Td/IPV). Where there is doubt, rather than withholding vaccination, appropriate advice should be sought from the relevant specialist, or from the local immunisation or health protection team.

The presence of a neurological condition is not a contraindication to immunisation but if there is evidence of current neurological deterioration, deferral of vaccination may be considered, to avoid incorrect attribution of any change in the underlying condition. The risk of such deferral should be balanced against the risk of the preventable infection, and vaccination should be promptly given once the diagnosis and/or the expected course of the condition becomes clear.

The immunogenicity of the vaccine could be reduced in immunosuppressed subjects. Vaccination should proceed in accordance with the national recommendations. However, re-immunisation may need to be considered. Seek medical advice as appropriate.

If aged under 10 years assess for immunisation with diphtheria, tetanus, acellular pertussis, inactivated poliomyelitis, Haemophilus influenzae type b and hepatitis B vaccine (DTaP/IPV/Hib/HepB), or dTaP/IPV as appropriate.

Phenylalanine may be harmful for individuals with phenylketonuria (PKU). Revaxis® contains approximately 10 micrograms of phenylalanine per 0.5ml dose which is equivalent to 0.17 microgram/kg for a 60 kg person. The amount in the vaccine is unlikely to adversely affect individuals with PKU, but they should be advised Revaxis® contains approximately 10 micrograms of phenylalanine.—The National Society for Phenylketonuria (NSPKU) advise the amount of phenylalanine contained in vaccines is negligible and therefore strongly advise individuals with PKU to take up the offer of immunisation.

## **Co-administration with other vaccines**

Td/IPV can be given at the same time as other vaccines.



When administering at the same time as other vaccines, care should be taken to ensure that the appropriate route of injection is used for all the vaccinations. The vaccines should be given at separate sites, preferably in different limbs. If given in the same limb, they should be given at least 2.5cm apart. The site at which each vaccine was given should be noted in the individual's records.

## **Syncope**

Syncope (fainting) can occur following, or even before, any vaccination especially in adolescents as a psychogenic response to the needle injection. This can be accompanied by several neurological signs such as transient visual disturbance, paraesthesia and tonic-clonic limb movements during recovery. It is important that procedures are in place to avoid injury from faints.

## **Pregnancy and breastfeeding**

Td/IPV may be given to pregnant women when protection is required without delay, such as following a tetanus prone wound or in management of outbreaks of diphtheria or poliomyelitis. However, to ensure pertussis containing vaccine is received, pregnant women from week 16 of pregnancy onwards should instead be protected by the administration of the routinely indicated low dose diphtheria, tetanus and acellular pertussis-containing vaccine (Tdap) Adacel. Refer to separate PGD.

## **1.5 Action if excluded**

Specialist advice must be sought on the vaccine and circumstances under which it could be given. Immunisation using a patient specific direction may be indicated. The risk to the individual of not being immunised must be taken into account.

Document the reason for exclusion and any action taken in accordance with local procedures.

Inform or refer to the clinician in charge.

In case of postponement due to acute severe febrile illness, advise when the individual can be vaccinated and ensure another appointment is arranged.

## **1.6. Action if patient declines**

Advise the individual about the protective effects of the vaccine, the risks of infection and potential complications of disease.

Advise how future immunisation may be accessed if they subsequently decide to receive the vaccine.

Document advice given and decision reached.

Inform or refer to the clinician in charge.

## 2. Description of treatment

### 2.1. Name of medicine/form/strength

Adsorbed diphtheria (low dose), tetanus, and inactivated poliomyelitis vaccine (Td/IPV): REVAXIS® suspension for injection in a pre-filled syringe.

### 2.2. Route of administration

Administer by intramuscular injection. The preferred site is the deltoid region of the upper arm.

For individuals with a bleeding disorder, vaccines normally given by an intramuscular route should be given by deep subcutaneous injection to reduce the risk of bleeding (see The Green Book Immunisation Procedures [Chapter \(4\)](#)).

The vaccines should be given at separate sites, preferably in different limbs. If given in the same limb, they should be given at least 2.5cm apart. The site at which each vaccine was given should be noted in the individual's records.

The vaccine's normal appearance is a cloudy white suspension that may sediment during storage. Shake the pre-filled syringe well to distribute uniformly the suspension before administering the vaccine.

The vaccine should be visually inspected for particulate matter and discoloration prior to administration. In the event of any foreign particulate matter and/or variation of physical aspect being observed, do not administer the vaccine.

### 2.3. Dosage

0.5ml.

## 2.4. Frequency

### Routine Immunisation Schedule

Td/IPV is routinely offered to teenagers as a second booster dose at around 14 years of age. It should ideally be given 10 years after the first booster dose. It should be given at the school session or scheduled appointment provided a minimum of 5 years have elapsed between the first and second boosters. (Note: the first booster is usually given at pre-school age using dTaP/IPV (Boostrix®-IPV or Repevax®).

### **UK immunisation schedule for previously unimmunised individuals or where there is an unknown or incomplete history of diphtheria, tetanus and poliomyelitis vaccination**

Those with uncertain or incomplete diphtheria, tetanus and poliomyelitis vaccine history should be vaccinated in accordance with the [vaccination of individuals with uncertain or incomplete immunisation status](#) flow chart.

The primary course consists of three doses, allowing an interval of one month between doses. Where a primary course is interrupted it should be resumed but not repeated.

A first booster dose should be administered at least 5 years after the third dose of the primary course.

A second booster dose should be administered a minimum of 5 years, ideally 10 years, after the first booster dose, if less than 5 doses of diphtheria, tetanus and polio vaccine are documented.

## Management of tetanus-prone wounds

Individuals requiring tetanus immunisation should be vaccinated in accordance with the recommendations in The Green Book **Tetanus Chapter (30)** Table 30.1 and **Guidance on the management of suspected tetanus cases and on the assessment and management of tetanus-prone wounds**.

In accordance with those recommendations, individuals who are immunosuppressed may require additional boosting.

Individuals may also require human tetanus immunoglobulin. Administration of tetanus immunoglobulin is not covered by this PGD.

If a person attends for a routine booster dose and has a history of receiving a vaccine following a tetanus-prone wound, attempts should be made to identify which vaccine was given. If the vaccine given at the time of the injury was the same as that due at the current visit and was given after an appropriate interval, then the routine booster dose is not required. Otherwise, the dose given at the time of injury should be discounted as it may not provide long-term protection against all antigens, and the scheduled immunisation should be given. Such additional doses are unlikely to produce an unacceptable rate of reactions.

## Management of cases and contacts of diphtheria

Cases and contacts of diphtheria should be managed in accordance with **Public health control and management of diphtheria in England guidelines** and recommendations from the local health protection team.

Individuals who are fully immunised but have not received diphtheria containing vaccine in last 12 month may be given a single booster dose of diphtheria containing vaccine.

## **Management of cases and contacts of polio**

Cases and contacts of polio should be managed in accordance with **PHE national polio guidelines: local and regional services** guidelines and recommendations from the local health protection team.

Management will depend on the level of exposure but may include the administration of a single dose of inactivated polio (IPV) containing vaccine, regardless of vaccine history.

## **Revaccination of individuals who have received a haematopoietic stem cell transplant or CAR-T treatment**

In accordance with the schedule recommended by the Scottish Haematology Society **Revaccination of patients following haematopoietic stem cell transplant or CAR-T treatment**

## **2.5. Duration of treatment**

See frequency section.

## **2.6. Maximum or minimum treatment period**

See frequency section.

## **2.7. Quantity to supply/administer**

See frequency section.

## **2.8. ▼ black triangle medicines**

No.

## 2.9. Legal category

Prescription only medicine (POM).

## 2.10. Is the use outwith the SmPC?

Primary immunisation is off-label administration but in accordance with the recommendations given for individuals over 10 years of age in The Green Book **Diphtheria Chapter (15)**, **Polio Chapter (26)** and **Tetanus Chapter (30)** and national tetanus, diphtheria and polio disease management guidelines.

Administration to individuals who experienced neurological complications following an earlier immunisation against diphtheria and/or tetanus is off-label but may proceed once the cause is identified, the condition has been stabilised or the expected course of the condition becomes clear in accordance with the recommendations in The Green Book **Diphtheria Chapter (15)** and **Tetanus Chapter (30)**.

Administration to individuals who have received a vaccine containing diphtheria or tetanus toxoids within the previous five years is off-label but indicated for the management of primary immunisation (as above) and for cases and contacts of diphtheria or polio in accordance with disease management guidelines (see frequency section).

Revaccination of individuals following haematopoietic stem cell transplant of CAR-T treatment is considered off-label but is in accordance with the **Scottish Haematology Society schedule**.

Vaccine should be stored according to the conditions detailed in the Storage section below. However, in the event of an inadvertent or unavoidable deviation of these conditions refer to National Vaccine Incident Guidance. Where vaccine is assessed in accordance with these guidelines as appropriate for continued use this would constitute off-label administration under this PGD.

## 2.11. Storage requirements

Vaccine should be stored at a temperature of +2° to +8°C.

Store in the original packaging to protect from light.

Do not freeze.

NHS Board guidance on Storage and Handling of vaccines should be observed.

In the event of an inadvertent or unavoidable deviation of these conditions, vaccine that has been stored outside the conditions stated above should be quarantined and risk assessed for suitability of continued off-label use or appropriate disposal.

## 2.12. Additional information

Minor illnesses without fever or systemic upset are not valid reasons to postpone immunisation. If an individual is acutely unwell, immunisation may be postponed until they have fully recovered.



## **3. Adverse reactions**

### **3.1. Warnings including possible adverse reactions and management of these**

Local reactions following vaccination are very common such as pain, swelling or redness at the injection site. A small painless nodule may form at the injection site.

Common adverse reactions include pyrexia, headache, vertigo, nausea and vomiting.

For full details/information on possible side effects, refer to the marketing authorisation holder's SmPC.

As with all vaccines there is a very small possibility of anaphylaxis and facilities for its management must be available.

In the event of severe adverse reaction individual should be advised to seek medical advice.

### **3.2. Reporting procedure for adverse reactions**

Healthcare professionals and individuals/carers should report all suspected adverse reactions to the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) using the Yellow Card reporting scheme on <http://www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard>

Any adverse reaction to a vaccine should be documented in accordance with locally agreed procedures in the individual's record and the individual's GP should be informed.

### **3.3. Advice to patient or carer including written information**

Written information to be given to individuals:

- Provide manufacturer's consumer information leaflet/patient information leaflet (PIL) provided with the vaccine.

- Supply immunisation promotional material as appropriate.

Individual advice/follow-up treatment:

- Inform the individual/carer of possible side effects and their management.
- The individual should be advised to seek medical advice in the event of a severe adverse reaction.
- Inform the individual that they can report suspected adverse reactions to the MHRA using the Yellow Card reporting scheme on:  
<http://www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard>

### **3.4. Observation following vaccination**

As syncope (fainting) can occur following vaccination, all vaccinees should either be driven by someone else or should not drive for 15 minutes after vaccination.

Following immunisation, patients remain under observation in line with NHS Board policy.

### **3.5. Follow up**

Not applicable.

### **3.6. Additional facilities**

A protocol for the management of anaphylaxis and an anaphylaxis pack must always be available whenever vaccines are given. Immediate treatment should include early treatment with intramuscular adrenaline, with an early call for help and further IM adrenaline every 5 minutes.

The health professionals overseeing the immunisation service must be trained to recognise an anaphylactic reaction and be familiar with techniques for resuscitation of a patient with anaphylaxis.

## **4. Characteristics of staff authorised under the PGD**

### **4.1. Professional qualifications**

The following classes of registered healthcare practitioners are permitted to administer this vaccine:

- nurses and midwives currently registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC)
- pharmacists currently registered with the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC)
- pharmacy technicians currently registered with the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC)
- chiropodists/podiatrists, dieticians, occupational therapists, orthoptists, orthotists/prosthetists, paramedics, physiotherapists, radiographers and speech and language therapists currently registered with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC)
- dental hygienists and dental therapists registered with the General Dental Council
- optometrists registered with the General Optical Council.

### **4.2. Specialist competencies or qualifications**

Persons must only work under this PGD where they are competent to do so.

#### **All persons operating this PGD:**

- must be authorised by name by their employer as an approved person under the current terms of this PGD before working to it.

- must be familiar with the vaccine product and alert to changes in the manufacturer's product information/summary of product information.
- must be competent to undertake immunisation and to discuss issues related to immunisation to assess patients for vaccination and obtain consent.
- must be competent in the correct storage of vaccines and management of the cold chain if receiving, responsible for, or handling the vaccine.
- must be competent in the recognition and management of anaphylaxis or under the supervision of persons able to respond appropriately to immediate adverse reactions.
- must have access to the PGD and associated online resources.
- should fulfil any additional requirements defined by local policy.

## **Employer**

The employer is responsible for ensuring that persons have the required knowledge and skills to safely deliver the activity they are employed to provide under this PGD.

As a minimum, competence requirements stipulated in the PGD must be adhered to.

### **4.3. Continuing education and training**

All practitioners operating under the PGD are responsible for ensuring they remain up to date with the use of vaccines included. If any training needs are identified these should be discussed with the individuals in the organisation responsible for authorising individuals to act under this PGD.

## 5. Audit trail

### **Record the following information:**

- valid informed consent was given
- name of individual, address, date of birth and GP with whom the individual is registered if possible
- name of person that undertook assessment of individual's clinical suitability and subsequently administered the vaccine
- name and brand of vaccine
- date of administration
- dose, form and route of administration of vaccine
- batch number
- where possible expiry date
- anatomical site of vaccination
- advice given, including advice given if excluded or declines immunisation
- details of any adverse drug reactions and actions taken
- administered under PGD

Records should be kept in line with local procedures

Local policy should be followed to encourage information sharing with the individual's General Practice

All records should be clear, legible and contemporaneous and in an easily retrievable format.

## 6. Additional references

- **Immunisation against Infectious Disease [Green Book].**
- Immunisation against Infectious Disease: The Green Book **Diphtheria Chapter (15).**
- Immunisation against Infectious Disease: The Green Book **Pertussis Chapter.**
- Immunisation against Infectious Disease: The Green Book **Polio Chapter (26).**
- Immunisation against Infectious Disease: The Green Book: **Tetanus Chapter (30).**
- **Vaccination of individuals with uncertain or incomplete immunisation status.**
- **National polio guidelines PHE.**
- **Public health control and management** of diphtheria in England.
- **Guidance on the management of suspected tetanus cases and on the assessment and management of tetanus prone wounds** England.
- Current edition of British National Formulary.
- Marketing authorisation holder's Summary of Product Characteristics.
- All relevant Scottish Government Health Directorate advice including the relevant CMO letter(s).
- **Professional Guidance on the Administration of Medicines in Healthcare Settings 2019.**
- **Professional Guidance on the Safe and Secure Handling of Medicines.**
- **Scottish Haematology Society advice on the revaccination of patients following haematopoietic stem cell transplant or CAR-T treatment.**

## **7. PGD for administration of low-dose diphtheria, tetanus and inactivated poliomyelitis vaccine (Td/IPV) V3.0 (valid from 1 March 2026 and expires 28 February 2029): authorisation**

### **Practitioner**

This PGD does not remove professional obligations and accountability. It is the responsibility of each professional to practice within the bounds of their own competence and in accordance with their Code of Professional Conduct and to ensure familiarity with the marketing authorisation holder's summary of product characteristics for all vaccines administered in accordance with this PGD.

By signing this Patient Group Direction, you are indicating that you agree to its contents and that you will work within it. I agree to administer Low-dose diphtheria, tetanus and inactivated poliomyelitis vaccine (Td/IPV) only in accordance with this PGD.

<b>Name of professional</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>

## Authorising manager

I confirm that the practitioners named above have declared themselves suitably trained and competent to work under this PGD. I give authorisation on behalf of **NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde** for the above-named health care professionals who have signed the PGD to work under it.

Lead clinician for the service area:

Name .....

Signature .....

Date .....

Authorised staff should be provided with an individual copy of the clinical content of the PGD and a photocopy of the document showing their authorisation.

This authorisation sheet should be retained to serve as a record of those practitioners authorised to work under this PGD.



## 8. Version history

Version	Date	Summary of changes
1.0	1 Sept 2021	Version 1.0 new PGD
2.0	1 June 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inclusion criteria expanded to include other patient groups out with the Scottish childhood immunisation programme.</li> <li>• Exclusion criteria updated to remove 'have completed a primary vaccine course or received a booster of a vaccine containing diphtheria or tetanus toxoid within the previous five years.'</li> <li>• Frequency section updated to include dosing information for the other patient groups out with the Scottish childhood immunisation programme.</li> <li>• Caution/further advice section updated to include further information on the vaccination of tetanus cases and tetanus prone wounds in pregnancy and also vaccination in the response to an outbreak of diphtheria or polio.</li> <li>• Use outwith SmPC section updated to include off-label administration to individuals who have received a vaccine containing diphtheria or tetanus toxoids within the previous five years when indicated for the management of primary immunisation and for cases and contacts of diphtheria or polio in accordance with disease management guidelines.</li> </ul>
2.1	1 March 2024	<p>The following changes to version 2.0 of the PGD have been made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• minor rewording, layout and formatting changes for clarity and consistency with other PHS PGDs</li> <li>• Inclusion criteria, frequency, is the use outwith the SmPC and additional reference sections updated to include reference to the Scottish Haematology Society schedule for the revaccination of individuals following haematopoietic stem cell transplant or CAR-T treatment.</li> <li>• Observation following vaccination section updated to include advice on driving post-immunisation</li> </ul>

Version	Date	Summary of changes
3.0	18 February 2026	<p>The following changes to version 2.1 of the PGD have been made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minor rewording, layout and formatting changes for clarity and consistency with other PHS PGDs</li> <li>• Cautions section updated to remove detail on immunisation of individuals who have experienced encephalopathy or encephalitis within 7 days of previous immunisation to align with updated Green Book chapter</li> </ul>