

# PHYSICIAN DISCUSSION GUIDE

Use this card to aid your discussions with parents about the importance of Tdap<sup>a</sup> vaccine.

## Pertussis is a serious disease that can affect your family

- Pertussis is commonly referred to as whooping cough<sup>1</sup>
- The disease causes severe coughing that can last for several weeks<sup>1</sup>



### Complications of pertussis may include:<sup>1</sup>

- Pneumonia
- Seizures
- Hospitalization
- Death

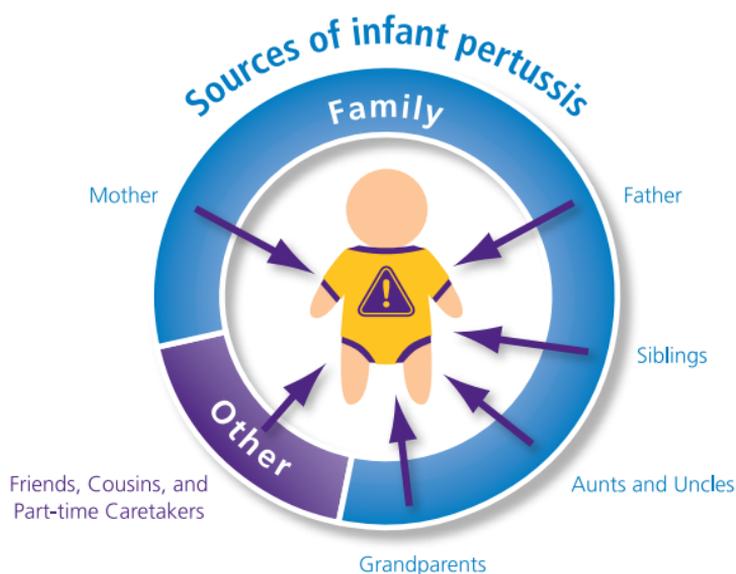
## Even if you received vaccination against pertussis as a child, you may still be at risk

- Immunity to pertussis wears off 5 to 10 years following childhood vaccination<sup>2</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Tdap = Tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis.

## You and your family could spread pertussis to your infant<sup>3</sup>

Studies show that when the source can be identified, family members are the source in up to 83% of cases transmitted to infants<sup>3</sup>



- International multicenter study of 91 families<sup>3</sup>
  - Source cases were identified for 44 infants and described by relationship to the infant, age, and household status<sup>3</sup>

## Getting vaccinated can help ensure you don't spread pertussis to your infant<sup>2</sup>

- Ask your primary health-care professional for vaccination against pertussis
- Encourage other family members and adults who have contact with your baby to get vaccinated as well

**References:** **1.** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Pertussis. In: Atkinson W, Wolfe C, Hamborsky J, eds. 12th ed. *Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases*. Washington, DC: Public Health Foundation; 2011:215-232. **2.** CDC. Preventing tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis among adults: use of tetanus toxoid, reduced diphtheria toxoid and acellular pertussis vaccine: recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and recommendation of ACIP, supported by the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC), for use of Tdap among health-care personnel. *MMWR* 2006;55(RR-17):1-37. **3.** Wendelboe AM, Njamkepo E, Bourillon A, et al. Transmission of *Bordetella pertussis* to young infants. *Pediatr Infect Dis J*. 2007;26:293-299.