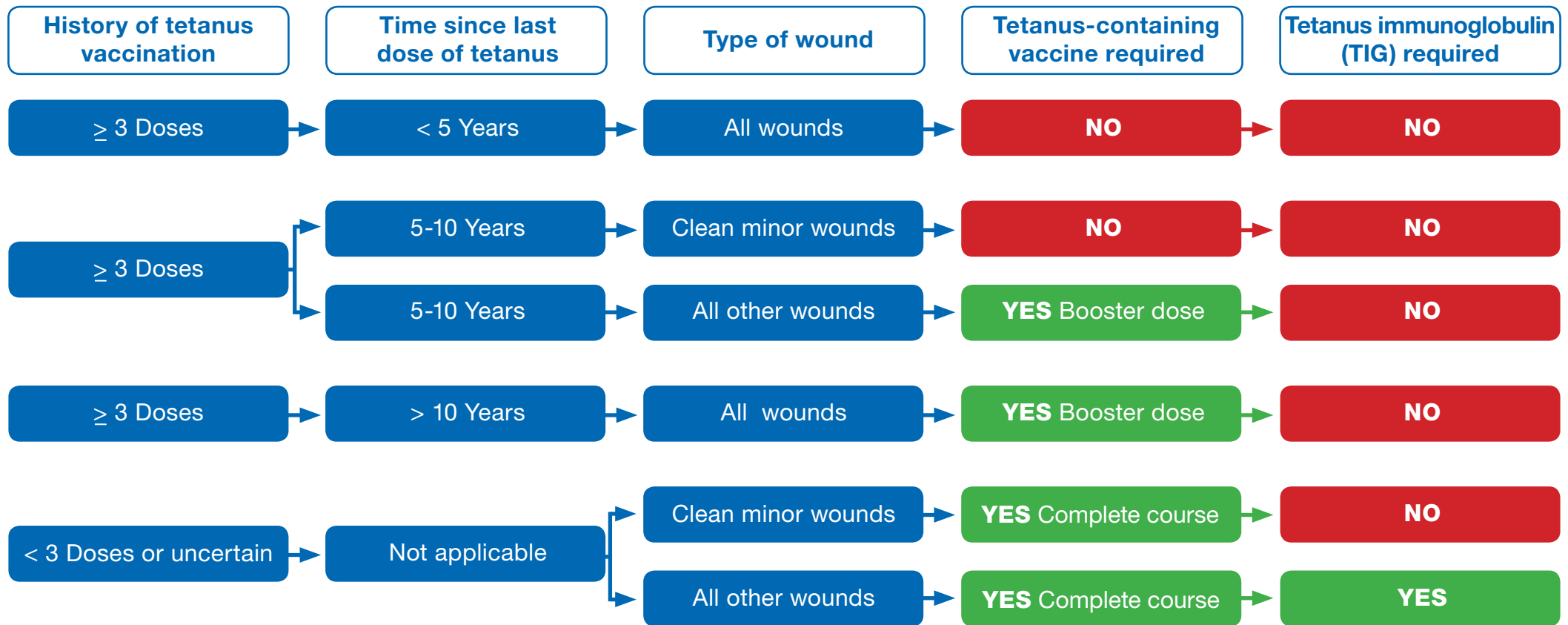


# Vaccine recommendations for tetanus-prone wounds



## Quick Reference

- **As an alternative to dT vaccine after a tetanus prone wound, adults can receive a single dose of dTpa vaccine to provide additional protection against pertussis** (provided patient has not received a dose of dTpa previously). Please refer to The Australian Immunisation Handbook 9<sup>th</sup> Edition 2008 **page 294**.
- Individuals who have **no documented** history of receiving a primary vaccination course (3 doses) of tetanus toxoid – containing vaccines should receive a complete primary course. Please refer to **Primary Vaccination** in The Australian Immunisation Handbook 9<sup>th</sup> Edition 2008 **page 292**.
- **Tetanus Immunoglobulin (TIG)** should be used for passive protection of individuals who have sustained a tetanus-prone wound, where the person has not received 3 or more doses of a tetanus toxoid-containing vaccine or where there is doubt about their tetanus vaccination status.
- TIG provides immediate protection, for a period of 3 to 4 weeks. Please refer to The Australian Immunisation Handbook 9<sup>th</sup> Edition 2008 **pages 294-295**.
- Booster tetanus vaccines and/or human tetanus immunoglobulin (TIG) should be administered as soon as possible after injury.
- For the definition of **tetanus-prone wound** refer to The Australian Immunisation Handbook 9<sup>th</sup> Edition 2008 **page 293**.

**Note: Tetanus Immunoglobulin is available FREE from the Australian Red Cross Blood Service (Inventory & Distribution) phone 02 9229 4444.**

For more information contact your local public health unit.

Details under 'Health' in the White Pages or online at [www.health.nsw.gov.au/publichealth/Infectious/plus.asp](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/publichealth/Infectious/plus.asp)

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