

APPENDIX D: PERTUSSIS FACTS FOR DISCUSSION WITH PATIENTS

- Pertussis and flu can cause serious disease and death to newborns.
- The most vulnerable population is newborns < 2 months as they cannot yet be vaccinated and do not yet have their own antibodies.
- Antibodies are a part of your immune system. When you receive a vaccine, your body produces antibodies to the disease you were vaccinated against.
- To protect your baby the most, get the vaccine during weeks 27 through 36 of pregnancy. It takes about two weeks for the mother's body to develop the antibodies that will be passed to baby at delivery. This is why it is important to receive the vaccine during weeks 27 through 36, before your baby is born.
- All adults and adolescents in contact with the baby need to get the Tdap (and flu) vaccines, including partners, fathers, grandparents, caregivers and siblings.
- If you did not receive the Tdap (and flu) vaccines during your pregnancy, you can still get them post-partum – it is safe during breastfeeding.
- It is safe and encouraged to administer both vaccines at the same time.
- If you are getting your Tdap vaccine outside of your provider's office, let your provider know the date you got it.