



# Immunisation: DTaP (18 months)

NICE indicator

Published: 16 September 2020

Last updated: 17 May 2022

[www.nice.org.uk/indicators/ind215](https://www.nice.org.uk/indicators/ind215)

## Indicator

The percentage of babies who reached 8 months old in the preceding 12 months, who have received at least 3 doses of a diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis containing vaccine before the age of 8 months.

## Indicator type

General practice indicator suitable for use in the Quality and Outcomes Framework.

This document does not represent formal NICE guidance. For a full list of NICE indicators, see our [menu of indicators](#).

To find out how to use indicators and how we develop them, see our [NICE indicator process guide](#).

## Rationale

Diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (whooping cough) are acute infectious diseases that can have severe complications. The routine immunisation schedule states that the hexavalent (6-in-1) vaccine is due at 8, 12 and 16 weeks old for immunisation to diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (DTaP) as well as poliomyelitis (IPV), haemophilus influenzae type B (Hib) and hepatitis B (see the [UK Health Security Agency's Complete routine immunisation schedule 2022](#)).

The indicator supports early vaccination with the hexavalent vaccine according to the routine immunisation schedule. Measurement by 8 months old allows for vaccination deferral due to febrile illness but aims to achieve immunisation against the named acute infectious diseases as early as possible.

## Source guidance

- [Vaccine uptake in the general population. NICE guideline NG218 \(2022\)](#), recommendations 1.2.3, 1.2.9, 1.2.21, 1.3.7, 1.3.8, 1.3.14, 1.3.15 and 1.3.16
- [Immunizations – childhood. NICE clinical knowledge summary \(2020\)](#)

## Specification

**Numerator:** The number in the denominator who have received 3 doses of a diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis containing vaccine before they reached 8 months old.

**Denominator:** The number of babies who reached 8 months old in the preceding 12 months.

**Calculation:** Numerator divided by denominator, multiplied by 100.

**Exclusions:** Babies with a confirmed anaphylactic reaction to a previous dose of the vaccine or any component of the vaccine.

**Minimum population:** The indicator would be appropriate to assess performance at individual general practice level.

