**Pertussis: Management Guidelines for General Practice**

### Suspected pertussis?
- A new coughing illness lasting 2 or more weeks **OR** paroxysms of cough **OR** inspiratory whoop **OR** post-tussive vomiting.
- New coughing illness and contact in previous 3 weeks with a case of infectious laboratory confirmed pertussis.

Choose: **NO** Manage as clinically indicated.
- **YES**

### Management of suspected pertussis
- Consider if admission to hospital is necessary.
- Consider commencing antibiotic treatment on clinical suspicion to reduce risk of transmission if within 14 days of onset of any cough. See current edition of Therapeutic Guidelines: Antibiotics.
- Exclude from childcare, pre-school, school or work until case is no longer infectious: until EITHER 5 days of appropriate antibiotic treatment **OR** 21 days after onset of any new cough **OR** 14 days after onset of paroxysmal cough (if onset known).

### Laboratory testing
- PCR on throat or nasopharyngeal swab/aspirate for cases with recent onset of cough (use Dacron swab, send dry, not in transport medium).
- Testing of cases with contacts <6 months of age is particularly important.

Choose: **YES** Manage as clinically indicated.
- **NO**

### Positive test for pertussis?

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<th>≤14 days since onset of paroxysmal cough if onset known; OR ≤21 days since onset of any cough</th>
<th>&gt;14 days since onset of paroxysmal cough if onset known; OR &gt;21 days since onset of any cough</th>
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<td><strong>YES</strong></td>
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### Management of pertussis contacts
- **URGENT** phone call to CDCB 1300 232 272 for public health action if case had contact with high risk institutions while infectious (i.e. childcare, maternity hospital or neonatal unit).
- Provide antibiotic prophylaxis to ALL household members IF within 14 days of first exposure to infectious case AND contacts are children <6 months of age or expectant parents in the last month of pregnancy. See current edition of Therapeutic Guidelines: Antibiotic.

### Immunisation
- See the pertussis chapter of the current online Australian Immunisation Handbook.
- Offer opportunistic pertussis vaccination, if indicated.
- Promote timely primary and booster vaccination for children and adolescents; a dose as recommended for adults, including health care workers; and a dose for pregnant women from 20 weeks gestation in every pregnancy.

### Management of suspected pertussis
- Case unlikely to be infectious.
- Antibiotic treatment is not recommended.
- Specific contact management is not required.