Important Information about Tdap and the Flu Vaccine

Help protect your pregnant patients and their babies by giving them the tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (Tdap) immunization and the flu vaccine. UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of Nebraska encourages all care providers who care for our pregnant members to offer and administer these vaccines, as appropriate, to their patients.

Offering Your Patients Both Vaccines
To help support a healthy and safe pregnancy, we recommend offering both vaccines to your patients and talking to them about the health benefits of both vaccines and after-birth care.

The Vaccines for Children (VFC) program covers the Tdap and flu vaccine. For patients 18 years old and younger, the vaccine must be given through the VFC program.

Immunization Health Benefits
There are many health benefits to providing these immunizations to pregnant members. The following are recommendations from the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):

- The Tdap vaccine protects pregnant women against tetanus (lockjaw), diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough) and influenza.
- Immunizing moms against pertussis is the baby’s best protection from it.
- Because of the changes in a woman's heart, lungs and immune system during pregnancy, getting these vaccines can help prevent serious illnesses and developmental issues for the fetus.
- Flu vaccine for the mom also protects the infant from influenza after it is born.
- Both immunizations show a long history of safety and value during pregnancy.

The ACOG and CDC both recommend that the Tdap vaccine be administered to all pregnant women in the third trimester between 27 and 36 weeks. They also recommend that all pregnant women receive the inactivated flu vaccine, which may be given at the same time as the Tdap, if desired.

Questions
If you have questions, please call Provider Services at 877-842-3210. Thank you.