



## VACCINATIONS IN PREGNANCY

### **Flu Vaccine:**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Women's Health Advantage physicians strongly recommend flu vaccine in pregnancy. Pregnant women who have medical conditions that increase their risk for complications from flu should be vaccinated before the flu season. Those conditions include chronic pulmonary or cardiovascular disorders, chronic metabolic diseases (including diabetes), renal dysfunction or immunosuppression.

Because flu vaccine is not a live virus, vaccine and major systemic reactions to it are rare. The vaccination period is from September to mid November.

The vaccine may be used in women in the immediate post partum period. Flu vaccine does not affect the safety of breastfeeding for mothers or infants.

It is your choice to receive or decline this vaccination.

### **T-dap Vaccine:**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention also recommend pregnant women receive the Pertussis vaccine (T-dap) during **each** pregnancy. When you receive the vaccine during pregnancy, your antibody levels will not stay high enough to provide enough protection for future pregnancies. Pertussis (whooping cough) is a highly contagious respiratory disease that can be fatal in babies less than one year of age. The T-dap vaccine also includes protection against Tetanus and Diphtheria.

You will be offered this vaccine in the third trimester of your pregnancy. It is your choice to receive or decline this vaccination.

### **Hepatitis B Vaccine:**

If you are in the process of receiving your three injections, you may continue, even in the first trimester. If you haven't started the series, it would be preferable to begin after the first trimester.

### **TB Skin Test:**

This test may be done any time during your pregnancy.