

## **Package leaflet: Information for the user**

### **Boostrix®, Suspension for injection in pre-filled syringe**

Diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (acellular, component) vaccine (adsorbed, reduced antigen(s) content)

**Read all of this leaflet carefully before you or your child start receiving this vaccine because it contains important information for you.**

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- This vaccine has been prescribed for you or your child only. Do not pass it on to others.
- If you or your child get any side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.

#### **What is in this leaflet**

1. What Boostrix is and what it is used for
2. What you need to know before you or your child receive Boostrix
3. How Boostrix is given
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store Boostrix
6. Contents of the pack and other information

#### **1. What Boostrix is and what it is used for**

Boostrix is a vaccine used as a booster dose in children from 4 years onwards, teenagers and adults to prevent three diseases: diphtheria, tetanus (lockjaw) and pertussis (whooping cough). The vaccine works by causing the body to produce its own protection (antibodies) against these diseases.

- **Diphtheria:** Diphtheria mainly affects the airways and sometimes the skin. Generally the airways become inflamed (swollen) causing severe breathing difficulties and sometimes suffocation. The bacteria also release a toxin (poison), which can cause nerve damage, heart problems, and even death.
- **Tetanus (Lockjaw):** Tetanus bacteria enter the body through cuts, scratches or wounds in the skin. Wounds that are especially prone to infection are burns, fractures, deep wounds or wounds contaminated with soil, dust, horse manure/dung or wood splinters. The bacteria release a toxin (poison), which can cause muscle stiffness, painful muscle spasms, fits and even death. The muscle spasms can be strong enough to cause bone fractures of the spine.
- **Pertussis (Whooping cough):** Pertussis is a highly infectious illness. The disease affects the airways causing severe spells of coughing that may interfere with normal breathing. The coughing is often accompanied by a “whooping” sound, hence the common name “whooping cough”. The cough may last for 1-2 months or longer. Pertussis can also cause ear infections, bronchitis which may last a long time, pneumonia, fits, brain damage and even death.

None of the ingredients in the vaccine can cause diphtheria, tetanus or whooping cough.