

# Hepatitis B

## Indications for Use and Schedule

### Routine Infant Schedule:

- **Dose 1**—Birth (monovalent HepB)\*

### Doses following Birth dose:

- **Dose 2** – 1 or 2 months of age with a minimum interval of 4 weeks after first dose
- **Dose 3**— 6 to 18 months of age with a minimum interval of 8 weeks after the second dose and at least 16 weeks after the first dose. The final (third or fourth) dose in the HepB vaccine series should be administered **no earlier than age 24 weeks**. Administration of a total of 4 doses of HepB vaccine is permitted when a combination vaccine containing HepB is administered after the birth dose.

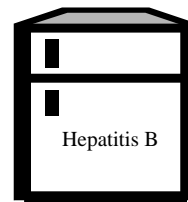
\*Infants whose mothers are HBsAg+ or whose HBsAg status is unknown should receive the third dose at 6 months of age at least 16 weeks after the first dose.

## Vaccine Administration

- Intramuscular (IM) injection in anterolateral thigh or deltoid of the arm
- 1 inch needle; 22-25 gauge (all ages)
- Can be given with other vaccines, at the same visit (Use separate sites; space at least 1 inch apart)

## Storage and Handling

- Store in refrigerator unit 35°F- 46°F (2°C - 8° C)
- Do not freeze
- Keep in the original box



## COMBINATION VACCINES

- **Comvax**- combination with Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) vaccine; licensed for use at 2, 4, and 12 through 15 months of age; must not be administered to infants younger than 6 weeks of age or for doses at birth or 1 month of age for a child on a 0,1, 6 month schedule
- **Pediarix**- Minimum age for the first dose is 6 weeks, cannot be used for the birth dose of the hepatitis B series; approved for the first three doses of the DTaP and IPV series; it is not approved for fourth or fifth booster doses of the DTaP or IPV series
- **Twinrix**- approved for persons aged 18 years and older, and can be used in persons in this age group with indications for both hepatitis A and hepatitis B vaccines; administered in a three-dose series at 0, 1, and 6 months; the first and third doses should be separated by at least 6 months; the first and second doses should be separated by at least 4 weeks, and the first and second doses should be separated by at least 5 months.

## ADOLESCENT AND ADULT SCHEDULE

- Routine vaccination recommended through age 18 years; all children not previously vaccinated with hepatitis B vaccine should be vaccinated at 11 or 12 years of age with the age-appropriate dose of vaccine; integrate into routine adolescent immunization visit. The usual schedule for adolescents is two doses separated by no less than 4 weeks, and third dose 4 to 6 months after the second dose; minimal interval of 4 weeks between the first two doses and 8 weeks between the second and third dose; the third dose must be separated from first dose by at least 16 weeks.
- Hepatitis B vaccination is recommended for all unvaccinated adults at risk for HBV infection and for all adults requesting protection from HBV infection. The usual schedule for adults is two doses separated by no less than 4 weeks, and a third dose 4 to 6 months after the second dose; the minimal interval between the first two doses is 4 weeks and 8 weeks between the second and third dose; the first and third doses should be separated by no less than 16 weeks.

## PRECAUTIONS

- Persons with moderate or severe acute illness should not be vaccinated until their conditions improve; however, a minor illness, such as an upper respiratory infection, is not a contraindication to vaccination

## CONTRAINDICATIONS

- Severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) to yeast, or to any other component in the vaccine following a prior dose of hepatitis B vaccine is a contraindication to further doses of vaccine

## FURTHER POINTS

- You might be asked to wait 28 days before donating blood after getting hepatitis B vaccine. This is because the screening test could mistake vaccine in the bloodstream (which is not infectious) for hepatitis B infection.
- Hepatitis B Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) is available at <http://www.immunize.org/vis/>