

Hepatitis B Vaccination Service

Please read this information carefully and do not hesitate to speak to the pharmacist if you have any questions. If you have any serious medical problems, please discuss them with the pharmacist to ensure hepatitis B vaccination is appropriate and safe for you

Hepatitis B is the most common serious liver infection in the world. It is caused by the hepatitis B virus that attacks the liver. The virus is transmitted through blood and infected bodily fluids. This can occur through direct blood-to-blood contact, unprotected sex, use of unsterile needles, and from an infected woman to her newborn during the delivery process. This disease is preventable by vaccination.

You have been given the first of three injections today that will, when the course is complete, hopefully immunise you against infection with this virus. The second injection will be administered 7 days after the first injection and the last at 21 days. It is recommended that you have a booster in twelve months time.

The vaccines work by stimulating your immune system to produce antibodies that will prevent this illness. **It is very important that all three vaccines are administered in line with this schedule for immunity to develop. If one is missed you cannot continue with the course.**

Today we have also carried out a blood test to see if you already carry this virus. Should you test positive, (results take two weeks) the fact that you will have already received two vaccines will not harm you, however, we will not administer the third dose as the course will be ineffective. Patients that return a positive result will however be referred to their GP or the sexual health clinic for specialist support to be arranged.

If you are at risk of Hepatitis B infection you should advise your sexual partners and close contacts to attend for vaccination.

Some Common Side Effects You May Experience

These vaccines are normally well tolerated. You may experience some discomfort after vaccination. The injection site may swell, and become red. You might also get some hardening of the skin. These are all common side effects to this type of vaccine and it is perfectly safe for you to take appropriate pain killers to help with these. Please ask your Pharmacist which pain killers are best for you.

More Serious Side Effects

These are extremely unlikely. Very few patients (1:100,000) may develop an anaphylactic reaction to this vaccine. This is an extreme allergic reaction and could result if you are extremely sensitive to the vaccine or one of its constituents. This condition is characterised by rash, swelling and difficulties in breathing and can result, if left untreated, in cardiovascular collapse and death. Anaphylaxis may result if you are sensitive to any constituent of the vaccine. Enderix B also contains Aluminium Hydroxide.

Your pharmacist has been trained to administer treatment in the very unlikely event of this occurring.

Anaphylactic reactions may happen very quickly, but sometimes can result after several hours (upto 72 hours). Your Pharmacist will ask you to remain in the Pharmacy for a short time following vaccination to ensure your safety. Should you start to develop any symptoms as described above following this vaccination, contact NHS Direct immediately and inform them that you have received your first hepatitis B injection. See useful contacts table overleaf

NB: People with egg allergy should not be vaccinated using this type of vaccine as eggs are used in its production.

Avoiding Infection.

As the virus is transmitted through blood and infected body fluids, you can reduce the risk of contracting or transmitting the virus by:

- Practising safe sex- always wear a condom
- If you are an injecting drug user- by not sharing equipment such as needles, spoons and filters
- There is a small risk of contracting hepatitis B from sharing toothbrushes, razors and towels that may be contaminated with blood.
- The virus can also be contracted through unsafe tattooing and body piercing practices i.e. non sterile needles.

REMEMBER

Vaccination against Hep B does not protect against sexually transmitted infections such as Chlamydia.

**Using condoms reduces the risk of these and transmitting other
Blood Bourne Viruses.**

Organisation	Address	Telephone Number
NHS Direct		0845 46 47
<p>The Hepatitis B Foundation UK office opening hours (Monday - Friday, 9.30am - 5.30pm) http://www.hepb.org.uk/</p>	<p>The Great Barn Godmersham Park Canterbury Kent CT4 7DT</p>	<p>Office: 01227 738279 Nurse Advisor: 01243 673388 (10.30am to 3pm)</p>
<p>The Hepatitis C Trust 27 Crosby Row London SE1 3YD For support and information on <u>any</u> aspect relating to hepatitis C Opening hours 10.30am to 4.30pm Monday to Fri</p>	<p>27 Crosby Row London SE1 3YD</p>	<p>For support and information on <u>any</u> aspect relating to hepatitis C Helpline: 0845 223 4424. Open- 10.30am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday</p>
<p>Isle of Wight Sexual Health Service Opening Hours Mon 9.15am-7.30 Tue 9.15am-7.00pm Wed 9.15am-5.00pm Thur 9.15am-7.00pm Fri 9.15am-1.00pm</p>	<p>St Mary's Hospital Parkhurst Road Newport Isle of Wight PO30 5TG</p>	01983 534202