

If I am a non-responder does that mean that I am more susceptible to Hepatitis B?

Yes. Non-response to the series most likely means that you are susceptible to HBV infection. It is also possible that you are chronically infected with HBV and further testing should be discussed.

What should be done if there is an interruption between doses of hepatitis B vaccine?

If the vaccination series is interrupted after the first dose, the second dose should be administered as soon as possible. The second and third doses should be separated by an interval of at least 2 months. If only the third dose is delayed, it should be administered when convenient

Are booster doses of hepatitis B vaccine needed?

No. Booster doses of hepatitis B vaccine are not recommended routinely for persons who are not immune compromised. Data show that vaccine-induced anti-HBs levels might decline over time; however, immune memory remains intact indefinitely following immunization. Immune competent people with declining antibody levels are still protected against clinical illness and chronic disease.



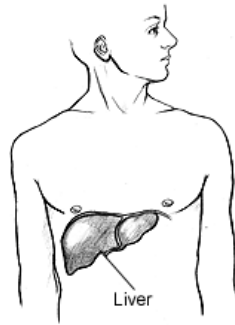
**I Work in a
Dialysis
Facility...**



**Do I Need the
Hepatitis B
Vaccine?**

What is hepatitis B?

Hepatitis B is a highly contagious virus that infects the liver. The virus is found in the blood and body fluids of infected people.



Are the patients I work with considered part of the at risk population?

Yes. In 1974, the incidence of newly acquired HBV infection among chronic hemodialysis patients in the United States was 6.2%, and selected hemodialysis centers reported rates as high as 30%. In 2002, the prevalence HBV was 1.0%, a figure that has not changed substantially during the past decade. Approximately one quarter of all dialysis centers reported one or more patients with chronic HBV infection and 2.8% of centers reported one or more patients with newly acquired HBV infection.

How is hepatitis B transmitted in the dialysis setting?

- HBV is transmitted by puncture through the skin or direct contact with mucous membranes exposure to infectious blood or to body fluids that contain blood
- It is one of the most efficiently transmitted blood-borne pathogens in the dialysis setting. Dialysis machines, shared equipment, medications and supplies have all been implicated
- Patients still acquire HBV infection either from community sources or from transmission in hemodialysis centers due to inadequate infection control precautions

Is the vaccine safe?

Yes. The hepatitis B vaccine is safe and effective. You cannot get hepatitis B from the vaccine. The most common side effect of the vaccine is soreness at the injection site.

Do I need to be vaccinated?

Yes. If you work directly with patients, you will be exposed to blood. OSHA Federal Standard requires employers to offer hepatitis B vaccine free of charge to employees who are occupationally exposed to blood or other potentially infectious materials.



Should I be tested after the vaccine series to make sure that I am protected?

Yes. You should have serologic testing 1-2 months following the final dose of the hepatitis B vaccine series. An anti-HBs serologic test result of ≥ 10 mIU/mL indicates immunity.

What should I do if the anti-HBs is negative when the testing is done?



You should repeat the 3-dose series and then be retested for anti-HBs 1-2 months after the last dose of that series. If you are still negative you are considered a non-responder to the hepatitis B vaccination.