

Hepatitis B vaccination in patients with chronic kidney disease or a kidney transplant

Renal and Transplant services Information for Patients

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As a kidney patient you can have a hepatitis B vaccination. This leaflet should answer any questions you may have about having the vaccine.

What is hepatitis B?

- Hepatitis B is an infection of the liver. It is caused by the hepatitis B virus.
- It can be passed on through contact with infected blood or bodily fluids.
- People who have the hepatitis B virus become long term carriers. This means they can infect others even if they are well.
- People with hepatitis B infection could develop scarring in the liver. This is known as cirrhosis.
- 1 out of every 10 people with cirrhosis from hepatitis B infection will develop liver cancer.
- You can be protected from hepatitis B infection by a vaccine.
- The hepatitis B vaccine is given by injection. The injection has a small amount of the 'outer coating' of the hepatitis B virus. This 'outer coating' does not cause infection. It cannot make you ill.
- This vaccine encourages your body to produce antibodies. These fight the hepatitis B virus, if it enters your blood stream.

**Health information and support is available at www.nhs.uk
or call 111 for non-emergency medical advice**

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To give feedback about this information sheet, contact InformationForPatients@uhl-tr.nhs.uk

Why should I have the vaccine?

If you need dialysis or a transplant, you are at greater risk of getting hepatitis B. You may come in contact with blood and other bodily fluids during your treatment.

Dialysis units have procedures in place to reduce the risk of hepatitis B infection. But it cannot be completely removed. People with kidney problems are more likely to have an infection.

The Department of Health recommends that all patients with a kidney transplant or on dialysis should have the vaccine against the hepatitis B virus. The vaccines are free.

People who travel abroad and get medical treatment while they are outside the UK may be more at risk of picking up the virus. This is because some countries have a higher rate of hepatitis B.

How will I get the vaccination?

Staff at your Kidney unit or GP surgery give the vaccine.

There are different vaccine injections that can be used. It depends on what is available. The brands we usually use are called HBvaxPRO, Engerix B and Fendrix.

We inject the vaccine into the muscle or under the skin of the upper arm. It is important to finish the course of injections. You may not be fully protected against hepatitis B infection if you do not.

	HBvaxPRO	Engerix B	Fendrix
Dose	40 micrograms	40 micrograms (2 x 20 micrograms)	20 micrograms
Total number of injections	3	8	4
Injection times	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st injection • 1 month after 1st injection • 6 months after 1st injection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st 2 injections • 1 month after 1st injections • 2 months after 1st Injections • 6 months after 1st Injections 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st injection • 1 month after 1st injection • 2 months after 1st injection • 6 months after 1st Injection

When shouldn't I have the vaccination?

- You should not have the vaccine if you have had a serious reaction to any hepatitis B vaccination in the past.
- If you are unwell and have a temperature. It is best to have your vaccine after the illness.
- You should leave a gap of at least 2 weeks between the hepatitis B vaccination and any other vaccine, for example, the flu jab.
- Other delays need to be avoided. You may not be fully protected and you may need to repeat the course.

Are there any side effects?

Like all vaccines, the Hepatitis B vaccine can cause side effects. But not everyone gets them:

- Some people find the area where they had the injection is red and sore.
- Fewer than 1 in 1000 people have a mild fever and flu-like symptoms days after the injection.
- Fewer than 1 in 10,000 people may have an allergic reaction. Please get urgent medical help if you get
 - a rash,
 - swelling of the face
 - difficulty in swallowing,

Call your doctor, or call 111 for advice. Call 999 in an emergency.

If you feel unwell after having the vaccine or are worried about side-effects, please speak to your kidney nurse for advice.

Does the vaccine protect me for life?

We will take some blood when you have completed the course of vaccines.

The blood test checks to see if your body has made enough antibodies. These are chemicals that fight infection and protect you from hepatitis B virus. People with reduced kidney function may not make enough antibodies. You may need to repeat the injections to help your body make more antibodies.

If you are on dialysis, we will check the antibodies every year. You may need to have an extra dose of vaccine (called a booster).

If you have any further questions, please ask your kidney nurse or doctor.



Useful contact information

Renal planned care hub	Tel 0116 258 8044
Glenfield Hospital, Ward 27	Tel 0116 258 8082
Glenfield Hospital, Ward 30	Tel 0116 258 4127
Glenfield Hospital, Ward 37	Tel 0116 258 4126 (Transplant ward)
Glenfield Hospital, Kidney Pharmacy	Tel 0116 258 8177
Leicester South dialysis unit	Tel 0116 504 6880
Hamilton dialysis unit,	Tel 0116 246 4176
Loughborough dialysis unit,	Tel 01509 611 600
Northampton dialysis unit,	Tel 01604 628 976
Kettering dialysis unit,	Tel 01536 512 535
Lincoln dialysis unit,	Tel 01522 573 561
Boston dialysis unit,	Tel 01205 316 401
Grantham dialysis unit,	Tel 01476 850 025
Peterborough dialysis unit,	Tel 01733 677 888
The Mistry unit, Peterborough,	Tel 01733 673 718
Skegness dialysis unit,	Tel 01754 762 220

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات کسی اور زبان میں درکار ہیں، تو براہ کرم مندرجہ ذیل نمبر پر ٹیلی فون کریں۔
على هذه المعلومات بلغة أخرى، الرجاء الاتصال على رقم الهاتف الذي يظهر في الأسفل

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