

## What is Hepatitis B?

Hepatitis B is a viral infection which affects the liver causing hepatitis (liver inflammation) and may result in long-term liver disease including liver scarring (cirrhosis), liver failure, and even liver cancer. These complications of Hepatitis B are more common when the disease is acquired during infancy and childhood. Hepatitis B is acquired in newborns via transmission from their mothers who have had the virus in the past. Children who live in the same household with a Hepatitis B carrier are also at risk of acquiring the disease. Hepatitis B can also be acquired through sexual intercourse and through contact with infected blood (such as with IV drug users who share needles).

## What are the recommendations for vaccination for Hepatitis B?

The American Academy of Pediatrics and the United States Centers for Disease Control have recommended that all babies be immunized for Hepatitis B during the newborn period. The first immunization may be ordered by the physician to be administered in the nursery or may be deferred until the baby is seen as an outpatient. Complete immunization for Hepatitis B requires a series of three (3) shots which should be completed by 18 months of life. Babies of mothers who test positive for Hepatitis B should receive Hepatitis Immune Globulin in addition to the vaccination. For recommendations regarding immunization for older children who were not immunized for Hepatitis B in the newborn period, check with your child's physician.

## How effective is the vaccination?

If a child receives all three of the recommended doses of the vaccine, he or she will have greater than 95% chance of protection against Hepatitis B and the serious consequences of this illness.

## What are the risks (side effects) of Hepatitis B vaccination?

No serious reactions have been reported with the current Hepatitis B vaccination. Side effects have included irritation and soreness at the site the vaccine is given although most infants who receive the vaccine do not experience this. When such local reactions occur, they usually begin within 24 hours of the administration of the vaccine and go away within 48 to 72 hours. Hepatitis B **cannot** be acquired from the vaccine.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS VACCINE, PLEASE DISCUSS THEM WITH YOUR BABY'S DOCTOR.

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| I have read the above information<br>baby's physician.<br>Parent's Signature | <b>Vaccine Administration Record</b><br>and consent to the administration of the Hepatitis B vaccine as ordered by my |
| Baby's Name  | Birthdate   |
| Date of First Vaccination  | Site of Vaccination   |
| Manufacturer and Lot #   |   |
| Expiration Date:   |   |
|  |   |

**HEPATITIS B  
VACCINATION:  
INFORMATION FOR  
PARENTS**

PATIENT  
IDENTIFICATION