



**Information for
patients and
carers**

**Hepatitis B vaccination in patients
with chronic kidney disease, renal
replacement therapy, or a renal
transplant**

Information for patients

You have been given this leaflet because you are eligible for Hepatitis B vaccination as a kidney patient. 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 body fluids. People who have the Hepatitis B virus may become long term carriers. This means they can infect others even if they are well. In the long term, 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 consists of a course of injections which contain small amount of the 'outer coating' of the Hepatitis B virus. This 'outer coating' is not infectious and cannot lead to Hepatitis infection. This vaccine encourages your body to produce antibodies which fight the Hepatitis B virus if it enters your blood stream.

Why should I be vaccinated?

Anyone needing dialysis or a transplant is at an increased risk of getting Hepatitis B, as they may come into contact with blood and other bodily fluids during their treatment. While dialysis units have procedures in place to reduce the risk of Hepatitis B infection, it cannot be completely eliminated. Also, people with kidney problems are more likely to have an infection. The Department of Health recommends that all patients with a renal transplant or having dialysis should be vaccinated against the Hepatitis B virus. People who travel abroad and receive medical treatment while they are outside the UK may be more at risk of picking up the virus. This is because some countries outside of the UK have a higher rate of Hepatitis B.

How will I get the vaccination?

The vaccination will be administered at your renal unit. There are different vaccine injections that can be used, depending on availability. The brands we usually administer are called HBvaxPRO[®], Engerix B[®] and Fendrix[®]. You will receive the Hepatitis B vaccine as an injection into the muscle or under the skin of the upper arm. It is important to finish the complete course of injections, as you may not be fully protected against Hepatitis B infection otherwise.

Hepatitis B vaccine brand name	HBvaxPRO [®]	Engerix B [®]	Fendrix [®]
Dose of each injection	40 micrograms	40 micrograms (2 x 20 micrograms)	20 micrograms
Total number of doses for course	3	4 (Each dose requires 2 injections)	4
Injection schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1st dose• 1 month after 1st dose• 6 months after 1st dose	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1st dose• 1 month after 1st dose• 2 months after 1st dose• 6 months after 1st dose	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1st dose• 1 month after 1st dose• 2 months after 1st dose• 6 months after 1st dose

When should I not 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
- If you have a latex allergy, please inform the staff immediately. The HBvaxPRO® syringe plunger, stopper and tip cap contain dry natural latex rubber; an alternative vaccine is available
- Other delays need to be avoided because you may not be fully protected, and you may need to repeat the course

Are there any side effects from the vaccination?

Like all vaccines, the Hepatitis B vaccine can cause side effects, but not everybody gets them:

- Occasional side effects - some people have soreness and redness around the area where you have had the injection
- Rare side effects - some people have a mild fever and flu-like symptoms days after the injection
- Very rare side effects – some people may have an allergic reaction. If you get a rash, swelling of the face or difficulty in swallowing, you seek urgent medical help with your doctor, by calling 111 for advice or dialling 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.

Will I be protected for life by the vaccination?

Once you have completed the course of vaccines, you will have a blood test to check your body has made enough antibodies (chemicals that fight infection) to protect you from Hepatitis B virus. People with reduced kidney function may not produce enough antibodies. If your antibody level is low, it is sometimes necessary to repeat the vaccinations to encourage your body to make more antibodies. The antibodies will be checked yearly after that. An extra dose of vaccine (called a booster) may be given if needed. If you have any further questions, please ask your kidney nurse or doctor.

Contact details

Should you require further advice or information please contact:

Royal Preston Hospital Renal Centre **01772 522739**

Chorley Hospital Renal Centre **01257 247277**

John Sager Renal Centre, Burnley **01282 211 200**

Clifton Renal Centre **01253 667510**

Laurie Solomon Renal Centre, Blackburn **01254 404014**

Kendal Renal Centre **01539 716611**

Furness Renal Centre **01229 232101**

Sources of further information

www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk

www.nhs.uk

www.accessable.co.uk

www.patient.co.uk

All our patient information leaflets are available on our website for patients to access and download:

www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets

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Lancashire Teaching Hospitals is a smoke-free site. Smoking is not permitted anywhere on any of our premises, either inside or outside the buildings. Our staff will ask you about your smoking status when you come to hospital and will offer you support and advice about stopping smoking this will include Nicotine Replacement Therapy to help manage your symptoms of withdrawal and the opportunity to speak to a nurse or advisor from the specialist Tobacco and Alcohol Care Team.

If you want to stop smoking, you can also contact the Quit Squad Freephone 0800 328 6297.

Please ask if you would like help in understanding this information. This information can be made available in large print and in other languages.

Gujarati:

આ માહિતીને સમજવામાં સહાયતા જોઈતી હોય તો કૃપાકરીને પૂછો. આ માહિતી મોટા છપાણ માં અને અન્ય ભાષામાં ઉપલબ્ધ કરી શકાય છે.

Romanian:

Vă rugăm să întrebați dacă aveți nevoie de ajutor pentru înțelegerea acestor informații. Aceste informații pot fi puse la dispoziție în format mare și în alte limbi.”

Polish:

Poinformuj nas, jeśli potrzebna jest ci pomoc w zrozumieniu tych informacji. Informacje te można również udostępnić dużym drukiem oraz w innych językach

Punjabi:

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਸਮਝਣ ਵੱਲ ਮਦਦ ਲੈਣੀ ਚਾਹੋਗੇ ਤਾਂ ਕਰਿਯਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਇਸ ਬਾਰੇ ਪੁੱਛੋ। ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਵੱਡੇ ਪ੍ਰਿੰਟ ਅਤੇ ਹੋਰਨਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵੱਲ ਮੁਹੱਈਆ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੈ।

Urdu:

دوسری زبانوں اور ریڈنگ کی اگر آپ کو ہی معلومات سمجھنے کے لیے مدد کی ضرورت ہے تو
یہی چھپا جس کی اب دستیاب ہو سکتی ہے براے مہربانی پوچھیے۔ معلومات

Arabic:

مطبوعه بأحرف كبيرة وبلغات إذا كنت تريد مساعدة في فهم هذه المعلومات يُرجى أن تطلب
أخرى يمكن توفير هذه المعلومات

Department: Renal

Division: Medicine

Production date: February 2023

Review date: February 2026

JR 923 v1