

# Information for patients and carers

## Hepatitis B Vaccination for Kidney Patients

A decorative graphic at the bottom of the page consisting of three overlapping, wavy bands of blue. The top band is a light blue, the middle is a medium blue, and the bottom is a dark blue.

## Information for patients

You have been given this leaflet because you are eligible for the Hepatitis B vaccination as a kidney patient. It 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 which 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. This can significantly increase the risk of developing 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 is at an increased risk of contracting Hepatitis B, as they may encounter 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 having dialysis should be vaccinated against the Hepatitis B virus.

Some countries outside of the UK have a higher rate of Hepatitis B virus. People who travel abroad and receive medical treatment may be more at risk of contracting the virus.

## 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<sup>®</sup>, Engerix B<sup>®</sup> and Fendrix<sup>®</sup>. 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 otherwise be fully protected against Hepatitis B infection.

Hepatitis B vaccine brand name	HBvaxPRO <sup>®</sup>	Engerix B <sup>®</sup>	Fendrix <sup>®</sup>
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"><li>• 1<sup>st</sup> dose</li><li>• 1 month after 1<sup>st</sup> dose</li><li>• 6 months after 1<sup>st</sup> dose</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1<sup>st</sup> dose</li><li>• 1 month after 1<sup>st</sup> dose</li><li>• 2 months after 1<sup>st</sup> dose</li><li>• 6 months after 1<sup>st</sup> dose</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1<sup>st</sup> dose</li><li>• 1 month after 1<sup>st</sup> dose</li><li>• 2 months after 1<sup>st</sup> dose</li><li>• 6 months after 1<sup>st</sup> dose</li></ul>

## 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 contains dry natural latex rubber; an alternative vaccine is available

## 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](http://www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk)

[www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

[www.accessable.co.uk](http://www.accessable.co.uk)

[www.patient.co.uk](http://www.patient.co.uk)

[www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/veteran-aware](http://www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/veteran-aware)

<https://bepartofresearch.nihr.ac.uk/>

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[www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets](http://www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets)

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 Smokefree Lancashire on Freephone **08081962638**

**Please ask a member of staff if you would like help in understanding this information.**

**This information can be made available in large print, audio, Braille and in other languages.**

Our patient information group review our leaflets regularly, if you feel you would like to feedback on this information or join our reading group please contact on email address:

[patientexperienceandinvovem@LTHTR.nhs.uk](mailto:patientexperienceandinvovem@LTHTR.nhs.uk)

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