

# Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B Vaccines: Be Sure Your Patients Get the Correct Dose

## Answer to a commonly asked question:

It is not necessary to restart the series of hepatitis B or hepatitis A vaccines because of an extended interval between doses.

\* The 4-month HepB dose may not be needed depending on the brand of vaccine used.

† There are minimum intervals between the doses of hepatitis B vaccine. There must be at least 4 weeks between doses #1 and #2, at least 8 weeks between doses #2 and #3, and at least 16 weeks between doses #1 and #3. The final dose in the infant series should not be given earlier than 24 weeks of age.

‡ For adult dialysis patients, the Engerix-B dose required is 2.0 mL (use the adult formulation) on a schedule of 0, 1, 2, and 6 months. For Recombivax HB, a special formulation for dialysis patients is available. The dose for the dialysis formulation is 1.0 mL and it is given on a schedule of 0, 1, and 6 months.

§ When using HepB at birth and 3 doses of Pediarix, you will be administering 4 doses of HepB which is recommended by ACIP.

## Sources for all tables

- Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices Recommended Immunization Schedule for Children and Adolescents Aged 18 Years or Younger—United States at [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/index.html)
- Prevention of Hepatitis A Through Active or Passive Immunization: Recommendations of the ACIP, *MMWR*, May 19, 2006, Vol. 55 (RR-07).
- A Comprehensive Immunization Strategy to Eliminate Transmission of Hepatitis B Virus Infection in the United States: Recommendations of the ACIP, Part I: Immunization of Infants, Children and Adolescents, *MMWR*, December 2005, Vol. 54 (RR-16).
- A Comprehensive Immunization Strategy to Eliminate Transmission of Hepatitis B Virus Infection in the United States: Recommendations of the ACIP, Part II: Immunization of Adults, *MMWR*, December 2006, Vol. 55 (RR-16).

## Hepatitis A vaccines: Recommended dosages and schedules

VACCINE	AGE GROUP	VOLUME	# DOSES	DOSING INTERVALS
<b>Havrix</b> (GlaxoSmithKline)	1 through 18 yrs	0.5 mL	2	0, 6–12 mos
	19 yrs and older	1.0 mL	2	0, 6–12 mos
<b>Vaqt</b> (Merck)	1 through 18 yrs	0.5 mL	2	0, 6–12 mos
	19 yrs and older	1.0 mL	2	0, 6–12 mos

## Hepatitis B vaccines: Recommended dosages and schedules

VACCINE	AGE GROUP	VOLUME	# DOSES	SCHEDULES/DOSING INTERVALS
<b>Engerix-B</b> (GlaxoSmithKline)	0 through 19 yrs	0.5 mL	3	For newborns, give dose #1 within 24 hrs of birth; then at age 1–2 mos, 4 mos*, 6–18 mos For older children who did not start HepB series at birth: 0, 1–2, 4–6 mos†
	20 yrs and older	1.0 mL‡	3	0, 1–2, 4–6 mos†
<b>Recombivax HB</b> (Merck)	0 through 19 yrs	0.5 mL	3	For newborns, give dose #1 within 24 hrs of birth; then at age 1–2 mos, 4 mos*, 6–18 mos For older children who did not start HepB series at birth: 0, 1–2, 4–6 mos†
	11 through 15 yrs	1.0 mL	2	0, 4–6 mos
	20 yrs and older	1.0 mL‡	3	0, 1–2, 4–6 mos†

## Combination vaccines: Recommended dosages and schedules

VACCINE	AGE GROUP	VOLUME	# DOSES	SCHEDULES/DOSING INTERVALS
<b>Pediarix</b> DTaP+HepB+IPV (GlaxoSmithKline)	6 wks through 6 yrs	0.5 mL	3	For newborns, give monovalent hepatitis B vaccine within 24 hrs of birth; then give Pediarix at age 2 mos, 4 mos, 6 mos§
<b>Twinrix</b> HepA+HepB (GlaxoSmithKline)	18 yrs and older	1.0 mL	3	0, 1, 6 mos
		1.0 mL	4	0, 7, 21–30 days, 12 mos