

Patient name: _____

Today's date: ____/____/____
(mo.) (day) (yr.)

Identification number: _____

Should You Be Vaccinated Against Hepatitis B?

A screening questionnaire for adults

Hepatitis B is a serious liver disease caused by the hepatitis B virus (HBV). HBV is spread through contact with blood or certain body fluids of an infected person. If you get hepatitis B, you may or may not have symptoms. Symptoms can last several weeks and may include yellowing of the skin and eyes, nausea, fever, fatigue, belly pain, and dark urine. Sometimes HBV stays in your body for years and causes long-lasting illness (chronic HBV infection) that can lead to liver damage, liver cancer, and death.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends hepatitis B vaccine for all persons 0–18 years of age. CDC also recommends hepatitis B vaccination for all adults who are in risk groups for HBV infection, as well as for any adults who want to be protected from hepatitis B. You don't have to say that you are in one of the risk groups (listed below) to be vaccinated against hepatitis B.

Some people in risk groups should be tested for hepatitis B, depending on the person's particular situation. If you've been infected with HBV in the past and then get vaccinated, the vaccination will not hurt you, it just won't help. Talk to your healthcare provider.

You should be vaccinated if any of the following apply to you:

- I want to be protected from hepatitis B.
- I have diabetes.
- I am sexually active but am not in a long-term, mutually monogamous relationship.
- I am a sex partner of someone who has HBV infection.
- I am a man who has sex with men.
- I have been evaluated or treated for a sexually transmitted disease.
- I am a healthcare or public safety worker who might be exposed to blood or blood-contaminated body fluids.
- I work or live in a facility for developmentally disabled persons.
- I am currently receiving dialysis or will be receiving it in the future.
- I have HIV infection.
- I inject illegal drugs or have done so recently.
- I am planning to travel in an area of the world where hepatitis B is common (Asia, Africa, the Amazon Basin in South America, the Pacific Islands, Eastern Europe, or the Middle East).
- I am a household contact of someone who has chronic HBV infection.
- I have chronic liver disease.