

Vaccinations for Adults with Chronic Liver Disease or Infection

This table shows which vaccinations you should have to protect your health if you have chronic hepatitis B or C infection or chronic liver disease (e.g., cirrhosis). Make sure you and your healthcare provider keep your vaccinations up to date.

Vaccine	Do you need it?
Hepatitis A (HepA)	Yes! Your chronic liver disease or infection puts you at risk for serious complications if you get infected with the hepatitis A virus. If you've never been vaccinated against hepatitis A, you need 2 doses of this vaccine, usually spaced 6–18 months apart.
Hepatitis B (HepB)	Yes! If you already have chronic hepatitis B infection, you won't need hepatitis B vaccine. However, if you have hepatitis C or other causes of chronic liver disease, you do need hepatitis B vaccine. The vaccine is given in 2 or 3 doses, depending on the brand. Ask your healthcare provider if you need screening blood tests for hepatitis B.
Hib (<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b)	Maybe. Some adults with certain high-risk conditions, for example, lack of a functioning spleen, need vaccination with Hib. Talk to your healthcare provider to find out if you need this vaccine.
Human papillomavirus (HPV)	Yes! You should get this vaccine if you are age 26 years or younger. Adults age 27 through 45 may also be vaccinated against HPV after a discussion with their healthcare provider. The vaccine is usually given in 3 doses over a 6-month period.
Influenza	Yes! You need a dose every fall (or winter) for your protection and for the protection of others around you.
Measles, mumps, rubella (MMR)	Maybe. You need at least 1 dose of MMR vaccine if you were born in 1957 or later. You may also need a second dose if you are a healthcare worker or traveling internationally. But people with weakened immune systems should not get MMR.*
Meningococcal ACWY (MenACWY)	Maybe. You may need MenACWY vaccine if you have one of several health conditions,* for example, if you do not have a functioning spleen, and also boosters if your risk is ongoing. You need MenACWY if you are a first-year college student living in a residence hall and you either have never been vaccinated or were vaccinated before age 16.
Meningococcal B (MenB)	Maybe. You may need MenB if you have one of several health conditions,* for example, if you do not have a functioning spleen, and also boosters if your risk is ongoing. You may also consider getting the MenB vaccine if you are age 23 or younger (even if you don't have a high-risk medical condition) after a discussion with your healthcare provider.
Pneumococcal (Pneumovax 23, PPSV23; Prevnar 13, PCV13)	Yes! All adults through age 64 with chronic liver disease, including chronic hepatitis B or C, need to get vaccinated with Pneumovax. If you haven't been vaccinated, you should get 1 dose now. You may also need a 1-time dose of Prevnar, depending on the medications you take, whether you have a weakened immune system, or if you have another risk condition.* At age 65 (or older), you will need a second dose of Pneumovax, given at least 5 years after your previous dose of Pneumovax. At that time, you and your healthcare provider may also decide if you would benefit from a dose of Prevnar, if you haven't received it previously. Prevnar and Pneumovax are usually spaced 1 year apart.
Tetanus, diphtheria, whooping cough (pertussis) (Tdap, Td)	Yes! If you have not received a dose of Tdap during your lifetime, you need to get a Tdap shot now (the adult whooping cough vaccine). And all women need to get a dose during each pregnancy. After that, you need a Tdap or Td booster dose every 10 years. Consult your healthcare provider if you haven't had 3 doses of tetanus- and diphtheria-toxoid containing vaccine or any prior Tdap vaccine, or if you have a deep or dirty wound.
Varicella (Chickenpox)	Maybe. If you've never had chickenpox, never were vaccinated, or were vaccinated but received only 1 dose, talk to your healthcare provider to find out if you need this vaccine.
Zoster (shingles)	Yes! If you are age 50 or older, you should get the 2-dose series of the Shingrix brand of shingles vaccine, even if you already were vaccinated with Zostavax.

* Consult your healthcare provider to determine your level of risk for infection and your need for this vaccine.

For more information about hepatitis B or hepatitis C, visit www.cdc.gov/hepatitis.

Are you planning to travel outside the United States? Visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) website at wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/list for travel information, or consult a travel clinic.