

STANDING ORDERS FOR Administering Hepatitis A Vaccine to Children and Teens

Purpose

To reduce morbidity and mortality from hepatitis A virus (HAV) by vaccinating all children and teens who meet the criteria established by CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and published in the [July 3, 2020 MMWR](#).

Policy

Where allowed by state law, standing orders enable eligible nurses, pharmacists, and other healthcare professionals to assess the need for and vaccinate children and teens who meet any of the criteria below.

Procedure

1 Assess Children and Teens for Need of Vaccination against HAV infection based on the following criteria:

- age 12–23 months and lacking documentation of at least 1 dose of hepatitis A vaccine (HepA)
- age 2 through 18 years who are unvaccinated or have not completed a HepA series
- age 6 months and older with anticipated travel to a country with intermediate or high endemicity for hepatitis A (i.e., all except Canada, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, and parts of Western Europe) (Note: A dose given at age 6–11 months does not count toward the routine 2-dose series given after the first birthday.)

2 Screen for Contraindications and Precautions

Contraindications

- Do not give HepA to a child or teen who has experienced a serious reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) to a prior dose of the vaccine or to any of its components. For information on vaccine components, refer to the manufacturers' package insert (www.immunize.org/official-guidance/fda/pkg-inserts/) or go to www.fda.gov/vaccines-blood-biologics/vaccines/vaccines-licensed-use-united-states.

Precautions (required evaluation before vaccination)

- Moderate or severe acute illness with or without fever

3 Provide Vaccine Information Statements

Provide all patients (or, in the case of minors, their parent, or legal representative) with a copy of the most current federal Vaccine Information Statement (VIS). Provide non-English speaking patients with a copy of the VIS in their native language, if one is available and desired; these can be found at www.immunize.org/vaccines/vis/hepa. For information about how to document that the VIS was given, see section 6 titled "Document Vaccination."

4 Prepare to Administer Vaccine

Choose the needle gauge, needle length, and injection site according to the following chart:

AGE OF INFANT/CHILD/TEEN	NEEDLE GAUGE	NEEDLE LENGTH	INJECTION SITE
Infants (6 through 11 months)	22–25	1"	Anterolateral thigh muscle
Toddlers (1 through 2 years)	22–25	1–1¼"	Anterolateral thigh muscle*
		⅝†–1"	Deltoid muscle of arm
Children (3 through 10 years)	22–25	⅝†–1"	Deltoid muscle of arm*
		1–1¼"	Anterolateral thigh muscle
Adolescents and Teens (11 through 18 years)	22–25	⅝†–1"	Deltoid muscle of arm*
		1–1¼"	Anterolateral thigh muscle

* Preferred site.

† A ⅝" needle may be used for children for intramuscular (IM) injection in the deltoid muscle only if the skin is stretched tight, the subcutaneous tissue is not bunched, and the injection is made at a 90-degree angle.

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5 Administer HepA vaccine, 0.5 mL for patients age 6 months (6–11 months for international travel) through 18 years and 1.0 mL for patients age 19 years and older, via the IM route, according to the following tables:

Schedule for routine vaccination

VACCINE AND DOSE NUMBER	RECOMMENDED AGE FOR THIS DOSE	MINIMUM AGE FOR DOSE 1	RECOMMENDED INTERVAL TO NEXT DOSE	MINIMUM INTERVAL TO NEXT DOSE
HepA #1	12–23 months	12 months	6–18 months	6 months
HepA #2	≥18 months			

Schedule for catch-up vaccination

NUMBER OF PRIOR DOCUMENTED DOSES	MINIMUM AGE FOR DOSE 1	MINIMUM INTERVAL BETWEEN DOSES OF HEPA STARTING FROM THE MOST RECENT DOSE GIVEN (DOSE 1 TO DOSE 2)
None or unknown	12 months	6 months
1		6 months

Schedule for travelers to countries with intermediate or high endemicity for HAV

AGE OF TRAVELER	HEALTH STATUS	HEPATITIS A VACCINE	IMMUNE GLOBULIN
Younger than age 6 months	Healthy	No	0.1 or 0.2 mL/kg ¹
6 through 11 months	Healthy	1 dose ²	None
1 through 18 years	Healthy & not previously vaccinated	1 dose	None
All ages ≥12 months	Immunocompromised & not previously vaccinated	1 dose	0.1 or 0.2 mL/kg ¹

FOOTNOTES

- 1 Infants younger than age 6 months and older children for whom HepA vaccine is contraindicated should be given IG at a dose of 0.1 mL/kg for travel of up to 1 month's time. For travel of 2 months or longer, they should be given IG 0.2 mL/kg and repeat dose of 0.2 mL/kg for every 2 months that travel continues. Because IG might interfere with live virus vaccines, when MMR or varicella vaccine is indicated, give at least 2 weeks before giving IG or at least 6 months after giving IG.
- 2 A dose given at age 6–11 months does not count toward the routine 2-dose series given after the first birthday.

6 Document Vaccination

Document each patient's vaccine administration information and update the following:

- Medical record: Record the date the vaccine was administered, the manufacturer and lot number, the vaccination site and route, and the name and title of the person administering the vaccine. You must also document, in the patient's medical record or office log, the publication date of the VIS and the date it was given to the patient. Note that medical records/charts should be documented and retained in accordance with applicable state laws and regulations. If vaccine was not administered, record the reason(s) for non-receipt of the vaccine (e.g., medical contraindication, patient refusal); discuss the need for vaccination with the patient (or, in the case of a minor, their parent or legal representative) at the next visit.
- Personal immunization record card: Record the date of vaccination and the name/location of the administering clinic.
- Immunization Information System (IIS) or "registry": Report the vaccination to the appropriate state/local IIS, if available.

7 Be Prepared to Manage Medical Emergencies

Be prepared for management of a medical emergency related to the administration of vaccine by having a written emergency medical protocol available, as well as equipment and medications. For Immunize.org's "Medical Management of Vaccine Reactions in Children and Teens in a Community Setting," go to www.immunize.org/catg.d/p3082a.pdf. For "Medical Management of Vaccine Reactions in Adult Patients in a Community Setting," go to www.immunize.org/catg.d/p3082.pdf. To prevent syncope, vaccinate patients while they are seated or lying down and consider observing them for 15 minutes after receipt of the vaccine.

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8 Report Adverse Events to VAERS

Report all adverse events following the administration of hepatitis A vaccine to the federal Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS). To submit a VAERS report online (preferred) or to download a writable PDF form, go to <https://vaers.hhs.gov/reportevent.html>. Further assistance is available at (800) 822-7967.

Standing Orders Authorization

This policy and procedure shall remain in effect for all patients of the _____			
			NAME OF PRACTICE OR CLINIC
effective _____	_____	until rescinded or until _____	_____ .
	DATE		DATE
Medical Director _____	_____	/ _____	_____
	PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE