Harvard University Hepatitis B Vaccination Offer

Harvard University Occupational Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens

Please complete the Harvard University Hepatitis B Vaccination Offer Form on page 2 if you may come in contact with human blood or other potentially infectious human materials or cultures of HIV or hepatitis B virus in the normal course of your job duties. As required by the OSHA Bloodborne Pathogen Standard (BBP), Harvard will make available at no charge the hepatitis B virus vaccine series to all Harvard employees who have potential occupational exposure to human blood and other potentially infectious material as defined in the OSHA BBP Standard unless the employee has (a) previously received the complete hepatitis B vaccination series, or (b) antibody testing has revealed that the employee is immune, or (c) the vaccine is contraindicated for medical reasons. Employees have the right to accept or decline the vaccine.

After reading the following Training Points for Employees Offered the Hepatitis B Vaccine, and the attached CDC Hepatitis B Vaccine Information Statement, please fill out and check the appropriate boxes on page 2, Harvard University Hepatitis B Vaccination Offer Form.

Training Points for Employees Offered the Hepatitis B Vaccine

1. Offered to the employee at no cost, the employee may initially turn down the offer to be vaccinated, but can request vaccination at a later date, without cost, if s/he is still at risk from an occupational exposure. Employees who do not wish to be vaccinated must read and sign the Vaccine Declination Statement included on this form.

2. Vaccine Efficacy, Safety, Benefits (Source: WHO Fact sheet N°204 Revised August 2008 Hepatitis B)
   - The complete vaccine series induces protective antibody levels in more than 95% of infants, children and young adults. After age 40, protection following the primary vaccination series drops below 90%. At 60 years old, protective antibody levels are achieved in only 65 to 75% of those vaccinated. Protection lasts at least 20 years and should be lifelong.
   - The vaccine has an outstanding record of safety and effectiveness. Since 1982, over one billion doses of hepatitis B vaccine have been used worldwide. In many countries where 8% to 15% of children used to become chronically infected with HBV, vaccination has reduced the rate of chronic infection to less than 1% among immunized children.
   - A vaccine against hepatitis B has been available since 1982. Hepatitis B vaccine is 95% effective in preventing HBV infection and its chronic consequences, and is the first vaccine against a major human cancer.

3. Please read the attached CDC Hepatitis B Vaccine Information Statement “HEPATITIS B VACCINE: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW”
Harvard University Hepatitis B Vaccination Offer Form

“I state that I have read the Hepatitis B vaccine information attached. I acknowledge that I am required to complete Bloodborne Pathogens Training. Please check any of these boxes that apply and complete the blank:

☐ On or about _____________ (date), I received the complete hepatitis B virus vaccination series;

☐ On or about _____________ (date), I received information that antibody testing has revealed that I am already immune to hepatitis B virus;

☐ On or about _____________ (date), I received information that the hepatitis B virus vaccine is contraindicated for medical reasons.

If none of the above boxes were checked, Harvard University will offer me the Hepatitis B vaccine at no cost. I choose the following:

1. ☐ “I accept the offer to be vaccinated and agree to complete the vaccination series. I will schedule an appointment with Harvard University Health Services (UHS) by calling 617-432-1370 (Longwood) or 617-495-5182 (Cambridge).”

   NOTE: Bring a copy of this completed page to the appointment with UHS.

2. ☐ “I decline to accept vaccination at this time. I understand that due to my occupational exposure to blood or other potentially infectious materials, I may be at risk of acquiring Hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection. I have been given the opportunity to be vaccinated with Hepatitis B vaccine, at no charge to myself. However, I decline Hepatitis vaccination at this time. I understand that by declining this vaccine, I continue to be at risk of acquiring Hepatitis B, a serious disease. If in the future I continue to have occupational exposure to blood or other potentially infectious materials and I want to be vaccinated with Hepatitis B vaccine, I can receive the vaccination series at no charge to me.” (OSHA Bloodborne Pathogen Standard, CFR 1910.1030)

Employee Signature: __________________________ Date: __________________

Employee Name: __________________________ Harvard ID Number: __________________________

Job Title: __________________________ School/Dept: __________________________

Supervisor’s or Principal Investigator’s Name: __________________________

33-digit billing code for UHS: __________________________

Please provide a copy of this form to your Supervisor, Laboratory Manager, or Safety Coordinator.
1 What is hepatitis B?

Hepatitis B is a serious disease that affects the liver. It is caused by the hepatitis B virus (HBV). HBV can cause:

**Acute (short-term) illness.** This can lead to:
- loss of appetite
- diarrhea and vomiting
- tiredness
- jaundice (yellow skin or eyes)
- pain in muscles, joints, and stomach

Acute illness is more common among adults. Children who become infected usually do not have acute illness.

**Chronic (long-term) infection.** Some people go on to develop chronic HBV infection. This can be very serious, and often leads to:
- liver damage (cirrhosis)
- liver cancer
- death

Chronic infection is more common among infants and children than among adults. People who are infected can spread HBV to others, even if they don't appear sick.

- In 2005, about 51,000 people became infected with hepatitis B.
- About 1.25 million people in the United States have chronic HBV infection.
- Each year about 3,000 to 5,000 people die from cirrhosis or liver cancer caused by HBV.

Hepatitis B virus is spread through contact with the blood or other body fluids of an infected person. A person can become infected by:
- contact with a mother's blood and body fluids at the time of birth;
- contact with blood and body fluids through breaks in the skin such as bites, cuts, or sores;
- contact with objects that could have blood or body fluids on them such as toothbrushes or razors;
- having unprotected sex with an infected person;
- sharing needles when injecting drugs;
- being stuck with a used needle on the job.

2 Hepatitis B vaccine: Why get vaccinated?

**Hepatitis B vaccine can prevent hepatitis B,** and the serious consequences of HBV infection, including liver cancer and cirrhosis.

Routine hepatitis B vaccination of U.S. children began in 1991. Since then, the reported incidence of acute hepatitis B among children and adolescents has dropped by more than 95% – and by 75% in all age groups.

Hepatitis B vaccine is made from a part of the hepatitis B virus. It cannot cause HBV infection.

Hepatitis B vaccine is usually given as a series of 3 or 4 shots. This vaccine series gives long-term protection from HBV infection, possibly lifelong.

3 Who should get hepatitis B vaccine and when?

**Children and Adolescents**

- All children should get their first dose of hepatitis B vaccine at birth and should have completed the vaccine series by 6-18 months of age.
- Children and adolescents through 18 years of age who did not get the vaccine when they were younger should also be vaccinated.

**Adults**

- All unvaccinated adults at risk for HBV infection should be vaccinated. This includes:
  - sex partners of people infected with HBV,
  - men who have sex with men,
  - people who inject street drugs,
  - people with more than one sex partner,
  - people with chronic liver or kidney disease,
  - people with jobs that expose them to human blood,
  - household contacts of people infected with HBV,
  - residents and staff in institutions for the developmentally disabled,
  - kidney dialysis patients,
- people who travel to countries where hepatitis B is common,
- people with HIV infection.

Anyone else who wants to be protected from HBV infection may be vaccinated.

Who should NOT get hepatitis B vaccine?

- Anyone with a life-threatening allergy to baker's yeast, or to any other component of the vaccine, should not get hepatitis B vaccine. Tell your provider if you have any severe allergies.
- Anyone who has had a life-threatening allergic reaction to a previous dose of hepatitis B vaccine should not get another dose.
- Anyone who is moderately or severely ill when a dose of vaccine is scheduled should probably wait until they recover before getting the vaccine.

Your provider can give you more information about these precautions.

Who should get hepatitis B vaccine?

Pregnant women who need protection from HBV infection may be vaccinated.

Hepatitis B vaccine risks

Hepatitis B is a very safe vaccine. Most people do not have any problems with it.

The following mild problems have been reported:
- Soreness where the shot was given (up to about 1 person in 4).
- Temperature of 99.9°F or higher (up to about 1 person in 15).

Severe problems are extremely rare. Severe allergic reactions are believed to occur about once in 1.1 million doses.

A vaccine, like any medicine, could cause a serious reaction. But the risk of a vaccine causing serious harm, or death, is extremely small. More than 100 million people have gotten hepatitis B vaccine in the United States.

What if there is a moderate or severe reaction?

What should I look for?
- Any unusual condition, such as a high fever or behavior changes. Signs of a serious allergic reaction can include difficulty breathing, hoarseness or wheezing, hives, paleness, weakness, a fast heart beat or dizziness.

What should I do?
- Call a doctor, or get the person to a doctor right away.
- Tell your doctor what happened, the date and time it happened, and when the vaccination was given.
- Ask your doctor, nurse, or health department to report the reaction by filing a Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) form.

Or you can file this report through the VAERS website at www.vaers.hhs.gov, or by calling 1-800-822-7967.

VAERS does not provide medical advice.

The National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program

In the event that you or your child has a serious reaction to a vaccine, a federal program has been created to help pay for the care of those who have been harmed.

For details about the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, call 1-800-338-2382 or visit their website at www.hrsa.gov/vaccinecompensation.

How can I learn more?

- Ask your doctor or nurse. They can give you the vaccine package insert or suggest other sources of information.
- Call your local or state health department.
- Contact the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):
  - Call 1-800-232-4636 (1-800-CDC-INFO)
  - Visit CDC websites at:
    www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/hepatitis
    www.cdc.gov/vaccines
    www.cdc.gov/travel

Vaccine Information Statement (Interim)
Hepatitis B (7/18/07) 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-26