

VACCINATION INFORMATION

Hepatitis B Vaccination



Persons with chronic kidney disease are at greater risk for the complications of Hepatitis B as their immune system is depressed. As well, they may undergo dialysis which carries a low but persistent risk of contact with the hepatitis virus.

Once on dialysis, patients and staff are known to be at an increased risk of getting Hepatitis B infections. This is from accidental exposure to blood and other bodily fluids. Precautions are taken to protect you. Some examples are:

- **Frequent good hand washing by patients and staff**
- **Cleaning of dialysis machines by fully trained staff**
- **Wearing of gloves by all staff**

In addition to the above precautions, we take one more step to protect you by offering the Hepatitis B vaccine. It is provided to you at no cost. It is given in three doses over six months (at 0, 1 and six months). This results in 86% of patients being protected against Hepatitis B.



The vaccine does not contain any substances of human origin. Apart from the extremely rare chance of an allergic reaction, the vaccine is generally well tolerated.

Possible side effects include pain, redness and swelling at the injection site, fever, headache, and dizziness. These symptoms are brief.

You should not receive this vaccine if:

- **you have had an allergic reaction to it in the past**
- **you are allergic to yeast or aluminum hydroxide**

If you have any further questions regarding any of this information please contact your kidney team.

Kidney Team Telephone #:

For more copies, go online at <http://vch.eduhealth.ca>
or email pchem@vch.ca and quote Catalogue No. **FP.450.H41**

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