

Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B Vaccines: Be Sure Your Patients Get the Correct Dose

Hepatitis A vaccines: Recommended dosages and schedules

| VACCINE | AGE GROUP | VOLUME | # DOSES | DOSING INTERVALS |
|------------------|-------------------------------|--------|---------|------------------|
| Havrix (GSK) | 1 ¹ through 18 yrs | 0.5 mL | 2 | 0, 6–12 mos |
| | 19 yrs and older | 1.0 mL | 2 | 0, 6–12 mos |
| Vaqta (Merck) | 1 ¹ through 18 yrs | 0.5 mL | 2 | 0, 6–18 mos |
| | 19 yrs and older | 1.0 mL | 2 | 0, 6–18 mos |

Hepatitis B vaccines: Recommended dosages and schedules

| VACCINE | AGE GROUP | VOLUME | # DOSES | SCHEDULES/DOSING INTERVALS |
|--------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------|--|
| Engerix-B (GSK) | 0 through 19 yrs | 0.5 mL | 3 | For newborns, give dose #1 within 24 hrs of birth; then at age 1–2 mos and 6–18 mos For older children who did not start HepB series at birth: 0, 1–2, 4–6 mos ² |
| | 20 yrs and older | 1.0 mL ³ | 3 | 0, 1–2, 4–6 mos ² |
| Recombivax HB (Merck) | 0 through 19 yrs | 0.5 mL | 3 | For newborns, give dose #1 within 24 hrs of birth; then at age 1–2 mos and 6–18 mos For older children who did not start HepB series at birth: 0, 1–2, 4–6 mos ² |
| | 11 through 15 yrs | 1.0 mL | 2 | 0, 4–6 mos |
| | 20 yrs and older | 1.0 mL ³ | 3 | 0, 1–2, 4–6 mos ² |
| Heplisav-B (Dynavax) | 18 yrs and older | 0.5 mL ³ | 2 | 0, 4 wks |

Note: PreHevbrio HepB vaccine (VBI Vaccines) was withdrawn from the U.S. market in late 2024 for business reasons. It was licensed as a 3-dose series for ages 18 years and older, with the same schedule as other 3-dose HepB products. Any incomplete PreHevbrio series may be completed with any age-appropriate HepB product. If two doses of Heplisav-B are used, the interval between doses is 4 weeks.

Combination vaccines: Recommended dosages and schedules

| VACCINE | AGE GROUP | VOLUME | # DOSES | SCHEDULES/DOSING INTERVALS |
|--|---------------------|--------|---------|--|
| Pediarix DTaP+HepB+IPV (GSK) | 6 wks through 6 yrs | 0.5 mL | 3 | For newborns, give monovalent hepatitis B vaccine within 24 hrs of birth; then give Pediarix at age 2 mos, 4 mos, 6 mos ⁴ |
| Vaxelis DTaP+IPV+Hib+HepB (Sanofi) | 6 wks through 4 yrs | 0.5 mL | 3 | 2, 4, 6 mos ⁴ |
| Twinrix HepA+HepB (GSK) | 18 yrs and older | 1.0 mL | 3 | 0, 1, 6 mos |
| | | 1.0 mL | 4 | 0, 7, 21–30 days, 12 mos |

Answer to a commonly asked question:

It is not necessary to restart the series of hepatitis B or hepatitis A vaccines because of an extended interval between doses.

NOTES

- 1 Give one 0.5 mL dose to children age 6–11 months who will travel anywhere outside the U.S. when protection against hepatitis A is recommended. This dose does not count toward the routine 2-dose series given after the first birthday.
- 2 All minimum intervals between doses in a 3-dose HepB series must be met: at least 4 weeks between dose #1 and #2; at least 8 weeks between dose #2 and #3; and at least 16 weeks between dose #1 and #3.
- 3 For adult dialysis patients, the Engerix-B dose required is 2.0 mL (use the adult formulation) on a schedule of 0, 1, 2, and 6 months. For Recombivax HB, a special formulation for dialysis patients is available. The dose for the dialysis formulation is 1.0 mL and it is given on a schedule of 0, 1, and 6 months. The safety and effectiveness of Heplisav-B has not been established in adults on hemodialysis.
- 4 When using HepB at birth and 3 doses of either Pediarix or Vaxelis, you will be administering 4 doses of HepB which is recommended by ACIP.

REFERENCES

- Universal Hepatitis B Vaccination in Adults Aged 19–59 years – Updated Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices – United States, 2022. *MMWR* 2022; Vol. 71(13):477–483 at www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/wr/mm7113a1.htm
- Prevention of Hepatitis A in the United States: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). *MMWR*, July 3, 2020; Vol. 69(5); 1–38 at www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/rr/rr6905a1.htm
- Recommendations of the ACIP for Use of a Hepatitis B Vaccine with a Novel Adjuvant. *MMWR*, April 20, 2018; Vol. 67(No 15):455–8 at www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/67/wr/mm6715a5.htm

