



Patient & Family Guide
2019

Hepatitis B Vaccine and Kidney Disease

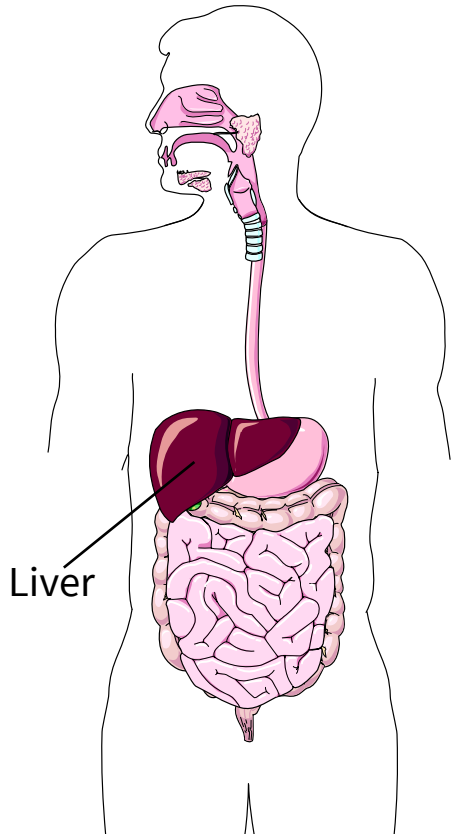


www.nshealth.ca

Hepatitis B Vaccine and Kidney Disease

What is Hepatitis B?

- “Hepatitis” means swelling of the liver. The liver is an organ that helps digest the food you eat, cleans your blood, and fights infection.
- Hepatitis B is a virus (germ) that attacks the liver.
- Some people who have this virus are very sick. They may have fever, yellow skin and eyes (jaundice), vomiting (throwing up), and belly pain.
- About half of the people who have the virus never feel sick, and they can spread the disease without knowing it.



Why do I need to get vaccinated?

- Hepatitis B is spread when blood or other body fluids from a person who has the virus enter the body of someone who does not have the virus.
- People with kidney disease who may need dialysis in the future, or who may need a kidney transplant, have a greater chance of getting Hepatitis B.
- The virus can cause serious liver problems, including liver damage, liver failure, and liver cancer.

The best way to prevent Hepatitis B is to get vaccinated.

What is Hepatitis B vaccine?

- Hepatitis B vaccine works well to protect you from the virus. It has been safely used in Canada since 1982.
- The vaccine does not contain any blood or living virus.
- The vaccine is given as a series of 3 or 4 shots over a 6-month period. You must have all of the shots in the series to be protected long-term.
- One month after your final shot of the vaccine, you will be asked to have a blood test to check if you are protected from the Hepatitis B virus. If you are not protected, a second series of shots will be given.
- Every year, you will have a blood test to make sure you are still protected from the virus.

What are the possible side effects of Hepatitis B vaccine?

Possible side effects include:

- Burning and/or stinging at the injection site at the time of injection. This is normal and will go away after a short time.
- Pain, swelling, and redness at the injection site. This is normal and will go away after a short time.
- Fever. This can be treated with acetaminophen (Tylenol®).
- If you get a fever and it lasts longer than 24 hours, please call _____.

Who should not get the vaccine?

You should not get the vaccine if you:

- › have a fever or illness other than a minor cold.
- › have had a life-threatening reaction to a previous dose of Hepatitis B vaccine or any component (part) of the vaccine.

Looking for more health information?

Find this pamphlet and all our patient resources here: <http://library.nshealth.ca/PatientGuides>

Contact your local public library for books, videos, magazines, and other resources.

For more information, go to <http://library.novascotia.ca>

Connect with a registered nurse in Nova Scotia any time: call 811 or visit <https://811.novascotia.ca>

Learn about other programs and services in your community: call 211 or visit <http://ns.211.ca>

Nova Scotia Health Authority promotes a smoke-free, vape-free, and scent-free environment.

Please do not use perfumed products. Thank you!

www.nshealth.ca

Prepared by: NSHA Renal Program

Illustration by: LifeART Super Anatomy 1 Images, Copyright © 1994, TechPool Studios Corp. USA

Designed by: NSHA Library Services

The information in this brochure is for informational and educational purposes only.

The information is not intended to be and does not constitute health care or medical advice.

If you have any questions, please ask your health care provider.

WQ85-1425 © October 2019 Nova Scotia Health Authority

The information in this pamphlet is to be updated every 3 years or as needed.