Hepatitis B

Ages Usually Given and Other Guidelines

- Give IM.
- Vaccinate all newborns with monovalent vaccine prior to hospital discharge. Give dose #2 at 1-4 months and dose #3 at 6-18 months. After the first dose, the Hep B series may be completed with single-antigen vaccine or up to 3 doses of Comvax, e.g., 2m, 4m, 12m of age. Dose #1 of Hep B vaccine can be given as late as 2 months of age if the mother has written documentation of HBsAg negative status, but this is not the preferred schedule.
- Vaccinate all children 0-18 years of age.
- For older children/teens, spacing options for three dose series include: 0 month, 1 month, 6 months; 0 months, 2 months, 4 months; or 0 month, 1 month, 4 months.
- Children who were born (or whose parents were born) in countries of high HBV endemicity or who have other risk factors should be vaccinated as soon as possible.
- If mother is HBsAg positive: give the newborn HBIG and HBV #1 within 12 hrs of birth, #2 at 1-2 months, and #3 at 6 months of age. Do not give Comvax (HIB-HBV).
- If mother’s HBsAg status is unknown: give HBV #1 within 12 hrs of birth, #2 at 1-2 months, and #3 at 6 months of age. If mother is subsequently found to be HBsAg-positive, give infant HBIG within 7 days of birth.
- May give with all other vaccines but at a separate site.
- Hepatitis B vaccine brands are interchangeable for 3 dose series: Engerix B (GSK), use 10 mcg (0.5 ml) for 0 through 19 years of age. For Merck Recombivax HB, use 5 mcg (0.5 ml) for 0 through 19 years of age.
- Alternative two dose schedule for adolescents ages 11 through 15 years: For Merck Recombivax HB ONLY, give one dose of 10 mcg (0.5 ml) adult formulation and give second dose of adult formulation 4-6 months later. May substitute two doses of pediatric formulation (Merck Recombivax HB 5 mcg) in same syringe to equal one dose of adult formulation. May only be used for adolescents 11 through 15 years. If adolescent has already started three dose series or cannot finish two dose series before reaching 16th birthday, must receive three doses.
- Twinrix (Hep B and Hep A combination vaccine, use only for persons ≥ 18 yrs old): 0 month, 1 month, 6 months schedule recommended. Mixed schedules with Twinrix and Recombivax and/or Engerix are acceptable.
- Pediarix - a combination of DTaP - Hepatitis B - IPV which is licensed to be used for doses given at 2 months, 4 months and 6 months. Enter as "DTaPHIBIP." Mixed schedules with Pediarix and other vaccines containing DTaP, HBV and IPV are allowable.
- Pentavalente – a combination of HIB-Hepatitis B-DTP (whole cell pertussis) being used in Mexico in 2, 4, 6 month olds. Enter as separate vaccines.

Minimum Intervals

- DO NOT restart series, no matter how long since previous dose.
- 3-dose series can be started at any age.
- Minimum spacing for children and teens: 4weeks between #1 & #2, and 8 weeks between #2 & #3. Overall there must be at least 4 months (16 weeks) between #1 and #3.
- Dose #3 should not be given earlier than 24 wks of age.
- For adolescent two dose schedule, there must be at least 4 months between dose #1 and #2.
• If Twinrix is used, minimum recommended interval between 1st and 2nd doses is 4 wks, minimum interval between 2nd and 3rd doses is 5 months and minimum interval between 1st and 3rd doses is 6 months (1st - 3rd dose interval of 4 months would work for hepatitis B but is not acceptable for hepatitis A).

The sources for these guidelines are:
Summary of Rules for Childhood and Adoles. Immunization, Immunization Action Coalition, March 2004
Summary of Recommendations for Adult Immunization, Immunization Action Coalition, September 2003
Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases, 8th Edition (January 2004)
Dept. of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention