

Preterm Infant Hepatitis B Vaccination and Serology Schedule

Preterm infants weighing less than 2000 grams are vaccinated for hepatitis B based on the mother's hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) status. In particular, please note:

- Give doses due at the indicated ages regardless of whether the infant remains hospitalized.
- If using combination vaccines (Comvax or Pediarix), do not administer before 6 weeks of age.
- Give the final dose of hepatitis B vaccine on or after 6 months of age and not before.
- Do post-vaccination serology (both HBsAg and anti-HBs) one to two months after the last vaccine dose, but not before the child is 9 months of age.

When preterm infants require a birth dose (i.e., born to HBsAg positive mother or mother with unknown status) they will need an additional three doses due to low birth weight.

Maternal HBsAg status	Vaccination and serology recommendations
Positive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administer HBIG (hepatitis B immune globulin) and single-antigen hepatitis B vaccine within 12 hours of birth. • Administer three additional hepatitis B vaccine doses with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Engerix-B or Recombivax HB at ages 1, 2-3, and 6 months, or – Pediarix at ages 2, 4, and 6 months, or – Comvax at ages 2, 4, and 12-15 months.
Unknown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administer HBIG and single-antigen hepatitis B vaccine within 12 hours of birth. • Test the mother for HBsAg. • Administer three additional hepatitis B vaccine doses with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Engerix-B or Recombivax HB at ages 1, 2-3, and 6 months, or – Pediarix at ages 2, 4, and 6 months, or – Comvax at ages 2, 4, and 12-15 months.
Negative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delay the first dose of hepatitis B vaccine until 1 month of age if infant is medically stable; otherwise delay until discharge. • Complete the hepatitis B vaccine series at appropriate ages or if delayed, with these minimum intervals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Give dose two at least one month following dose one. – Give dose three at least two months after dose two and at least four months from dose one.

NOTE: This table replaces the incorrect 2005 ACIP Table 4: Hepatitis B Immunization Management of Preterm Infants Weighing <2,000 g, by Maternal Hepatitis B Surface Antigen (HBsAg) Status in *A Comprehensive Immunization Strategy to Eliminate Transmission of Hepatitis B Virus Infection in the United States: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). Part I: Immunization of Infants, Children, and Adolescents* (MMWR 2005, Vol. 54, No. RR-16, page 9). A list of the major errata appeared in MMWR on December 7, 2007.

For more information see the MDH perinatal hepatitis B website at <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/diseases/hepb/perinatal/index.html>.



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