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 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.

**Note:** 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Maternal HBsAg status</th>
<th>Vaccination and serology recommendations</th>
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</table>
| **Positive**          | - 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:  
  - Engerix-B or Recombivax HB at ages 1, 2-3, and 6 months, or  
  - Pediarix at ages 2, 4, and 6 months  
  - Post-vaccination serology (HBsAg and anti-HBs) 1-2 months after last dose, but not before 9 months of age |
| **Unknown**           | - 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:  
  - Engerix-B or Recombivax HB at ages 1, 2-3, and 6 months, or  
  - Pediarix at ages 2, 4, and 6 months  
  - If mother’s HBsAg test comes back positive, perform post-vaccination serology (HBsAg and anti-HBs) 1-2 months after last dose, but not before 9 months of age. |
| **Negative**          | - 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:  
  - 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. |

For more information, go to [www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/diseases/hepb/perinatal/index.html](http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/diseases/hepb/perinatal/index.html).