

## NSW Immunisation Schedule

Visit the NSW Health website to view the current NSW Immunisation Schedule, at [www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/schedule.aspx](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/schedule.aspx)

## 'Save The Date' To Vaccinate

It's important to make sure that vaccinations are given **on time** so that babies are protected early and not at risk of catching serious diseases. The 'Save the Date to Vaccinate' phone App may help you ensure that your child's vaccinations are given on time.



Check out the 'Save the Date to Vaccinate' website for useful information and resources such as the ability to print a personalised immunisation schedule for your child(ren) and videos, at [www.immunisation.health.nsw.gov.au/](http://www.immunisation.health.nsw.gov.au/)



## My Personal Health Record (Blue Book)

It's important to that you bring your child's Blue Book to each appointment to have their vaccinations recorded by the doctor/nurse.

## MORE INFORMATION

### NSW Health website

[www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation)

### Australian Government Department of Health website

[www.health.gov.au](http://www.health.gov.au)

### The National Centre for Immunisation Research & Surveillance (NCIRS)

[www.ncirs.edu.au/about/index.php](http://www.ncirs.edu.au/about/index.php)

### NCIRS Hepatitis B factsheet

[www.ncirs.edu.au/immunisation/fact-sheets/hepatitis-B-fact-sheet.pdf](http://www.ncirs.edu.au/immunisation/fact-sheets/hepatitis-B-fact-sheet.pdf)

### Australian Childhood Immunisation Register website

[www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/medicare/australian-childhood-immunisation-register](http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/medicare/australian-childhood-immunisation-register)

# Hepatitis B Vaccination

For Your Newborn Baby



Health

## Hepatitis B

The hepatitis B virus can cause long term liver disease such as cirrhosis of the liver and cancer. Infants who become infected with hepatitis B have a 90% chance of developing a lifelong chronic infection.

Hepatitis B is very infectious and can easily spread through:

- an infected mother passing it to her baby at birth
- skin puncture with unclean items such as needles and razors
- direct contact between an infected person's blood and an open wound e.g. abrasions and cuts
- sex with an infected person.

## Testing in Pregnancy

All women should be tested for hepatitis B infection during routine pregnancy screening. If the test is positive the baby will need treatment to prevent infection and the risk of chronic liver disease. Treatment may also be recommended for the mother.

## Prevention

Hepatitis B vaccine has been used in Australia since the early 1980s and vaccination is the best way to prevent the disease.

## Hepatitis B Vaccine for Newborn Babies

All newborn babies are offered hepatitis B vaccine at birth to:

- Prevent the spread of the disease from an infected mother to her baby. Sometimes a mother may not know she has the disease; and
- Prevent the spread of the disease in the first months of life from infected people who live in the same house or others who might be infected.

## Hepatitis B Vaccination Schedule

It is recommended that your baby is given a dose of hepatitis B vaccine at birth or within the first 7 days of life, followed by a further three doses of hepatitis B vaccine at 6 weeks, 4 and 6 months of age.

## Hepatitis B Vaccine Safety

Extensive experience shows that hepatitis B vaccine is safe and well tolerated by newborn babies. The most common side effects of the vaccine are minor and include redness and swelling at the injection site. Hepatitis B vaccine does not interfere with breastfeeding.

## Treatment of Babies Born to Hepatitis B Positive Mothers

As well as being offered a dose of hepatitis B vaccine at birth, a baby who is born to a mother with hepatitis B infection will also be offered a medication called 'hepatitis B immunoglobulin' within 12 hours of birth to provide added protection. It is essential that the full course of hepatitis B vaccine is also completed for long term protection.

## Further Testing of Babies Born to Hepatitis B Positive Mothers

A baby who is born to a mother with hepatitis B infection needs a blood test 3 months after completing the hepatitis B vaccination course to check if they are protected. You and your doctor may be sent a reminder letter from NSW Health.

