

DID YOU KNOW?

There's an update from the CDC calling for universal adult hepatitis B vaccination

WHY DID THE CDC POLICY ON HEPATITIS B VACCINATION CHANGE?

Hepatitis B remains a major public health concern in the United States.^{1,2} While the 1991 pediatric policy helped decrease rates of hepatitis B in children, adults are still vulnerable and cases are on the rise.³ To combat the growing number of hepatitis B cases, the CDC now recommends universal hepatitis B vaccination for all adults.^{4,5*} This important update will impact patient care in your health system—are you prepared?



In 2019, ~50% of new cases were among adults 30–49 years⁴



In many states, the rate of new cases in adults has increased in the last decade^{2,4}



Due to the lack of an effective adult vaccination strategy, 4 out of 5 adults born before 1991 do not have vaccine-induced immunity⁶

ADULT HEPATITIS B VACCINATION GUIDELINES IN THE US

The CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) issued updated hepatitis B vaccination recommendations for adults.⁵ *The Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)* published the recommendations as official guidelines in April 2022.⁴

New guidelines simplify hepatitis B vaccine recommendations in adults^{4,5}

ALL ADULTS AGED 19–59 YEARS  **SHOULD** RECEIVE HEPATITIS B VACCINATION

ADULTS AGED 60 YEARS AND OLDER WITH RISK FACTORS[†]  **SHOULD** RECEIVE HEPATITIS B VACCINATION

ADULTS AGED 60 YEARS AND OLDER WITHOUT KNOWN RISK FACTORS  **MAY** RECEIVE HEPATITIS B VACCINATION

TIPS TO IMPROVE VACCINATION RATES IN ADULTS

YOU can make an impact as a member of the healthcare team:



Counsel & educate adult patients

Recommend vaccination and address any patient concerns⁷



Maximize vaccination opportunities

Implement procedures that alert providers to recommend vaccination during patient encounters⁸



Improve accessibility to vaccines

Drive patients to clinics and pharmacies where vaccination is easily accessible⁸



Document all vaccinations

Proper documentation in the EHR can help providers identify vaccination needs^{7,8}

EHR, electronic health record.

*The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends hepatitis B vaccination for all adults aged 19 through 59 years and adults 60 years or older with risk factors for hepatitis B. Adults who are 60 years or older without known risk factors may also receive vaccination.⁴

[†]Please refer to the hepatitis B vaccination guidelines noted in the *MMWR* publication for the specific risk factors for hepatitis B.⁴

References: 1. Hepatitis B Foundation. Do you know your hepatitis facts from fiction? May 7, 2014. Accessed January 11, 2023. <https://www.hepb.org/blog/do-you-know-your-hepatitis-facts-from-fiction/> 2. Hepatitis B Foundation. Hepatitis B facts and figures. Accessed January 11, 2023. <https://www.hepb.org/what-is-hepatitis-b/what-is-hepb/facts-and-figures/> 3. Hepatitis B virus: a comprehensive strategy for eliminating transmission in the United States through universal childhood vaccination. Recommendations of the Immunization Practices Advisory Committee (ACIP). *MMWR Recomm Rep.* 1991;40(RR-13):1-25. 4. Weng MK, Doshani M, Khan MA, et al. Universal hepatitis B vaccination in adults aged 19–59 years: updated recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices – United States, 2022. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep.* 2022;71(13):477-483. 5. Murthy N, Wodi AP, Bernstein H, McNally V, Cineas S, Ault K. Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices Recommended Immunization Schedule for Adults Aged 19 Years or Older – United States, 2022. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep.* 2022;71:229–233. 6. He WQ, Guo GN, Li C. The impact of hepatitis B vaccination in the United States, 1999–2018. *Hepatology.* 2022;75(6):1566-1578. 7. CDC. Strategies for Increasing Adult Vaccination Rates. <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/adults/for-practice/increasing-vacc-rates.html>. Accessed October 25, 2022. 8. Immunize.org. Strategies to Improve Adult Vaccination Coverage. <https://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2050.pdf>. Accessed October 25, 2022