Standing Orders for Administering Hepatitis B Vaccine to Adults

Purpose: To reduce morbidity and mortality from hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection by vaccinating all patients who meet the criteria established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.

Policy: Under these standing orders, eligible nurses may vaccinate patients who meet the criteria below.

Procedure:

1. Identify adults in need of hepatitis B vaccination based on the following criteria:
   a. Persons less than 19 years of age who have not received the vaccine
   b. Age 19 years or older meeting any of the following criteria:
      - having had more than one sex partner in the previous 6 months, a recently acquired sexually transmitted disease, or recent treatment for a sexually transmitted disease
      - male who has had sex with males
      - injection drug user
      - sex partner or household member of a person who is chronically infected with HBV (including an HBsAg-positive adopted child)
      - at occupational risk of infection through exposure to blood or blood-contaminated body fluid (e.g., health care worker, public safety worker, trainee in a health professional or allied health school)
      - client or staff of an institution for the developmentally disabled
      - hemodialysis patient or patient with early renal failure (who will become a dialysis patient)
      - receiving clotting-factor concentrate
      - planning to travel to or live in a high endemic area of the world for more than 6 months and will have close contact with the local population; also short-term travelers who are likely to have contact with blood (e.g., in a medical setting) or sexual contact with residents of areas with high or intermediate levels of endemic disease
      - housed in a long-term correctional facility
2. Screen all patients for contraindications and precautions to hepatitis B vaccine:
   a. **Contraindications:** a history of a serious reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) after a previous dose of hepatitis B vaccine or to a hepatitis B vaccine component. For a list of vaccine components, go to www.cdc.gov/nip/publications/pink/appendices/a/excipient.pdf
   b. **Precautions:** a moderate or severe acute illness with or without fever
3. Provide all patients with a copy of the most current federal Vaccine Information Statement (VIS). You must document, in the patient's medical record or office log, the publication date of the VIS and the date it was given to the patient. Provide non-English speakers with the VIS in their native language if available; these can be found at www.immunize.org/vis
4. For persons 20 years of age or older, administer 1.0 mL hepatitis B vaccine IM (22–25g, 1–1½" needle) in the deltoid muscle. For persons 19 years of age or younger, administer 0.5 mL hepatitis B vaccine IM (22–25g, 1–1½" needle) in the deltoid muscle.
5. Provide subsequent doses of hepatitis B vaccine to complete each patient's 3-dose schedule by observing a minimum interval of 4 weeks between the first and second doses, 8 weeks between the second and third doses, and at least 4 months between the first and third doses.
6. Document each patient's vaccine administration information and follow up in the following places:
   a. **Medical chart:** Record the date the vaccine was administered, the manufacturer and lot number, the vaccination site and route, and the name and title of the person administering the vaccine. If vaccine was not given, record the reason(s) for non-receipt of the vaccine (e.g., medical contraindication, patient refusal).
   b. **Personal immunization record card:** Record the date of vaccination and the name/location of the administering clinic.
7. Be prepared for management of a medical emergency related to the administration of vaccine by having a written emergency medical protocol available, as well as equipment and medications.
8. Report all adverse reactions to hepatitis B vaccine to the federal Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) at www.vaers.org or by calling (800) 822-7967. VAERS report forms are available at www.vaers.org

This policy and procedure shall remain in effect for all patients of the_____ until rescinded or until _____ (date).
(name of practice or clinic)

Medical Director's signature: _____ Effective date: _____

www.immunize.org/catg.d/p3076.pdf • Item #P3076 (12/03)