
Talk to Your Pharmacist About Getting Vaccinated

The hepatitis B vaccine is given as a series of doses over a period of time. Talk to your pharmacist to find out if hepatitis B vaccination is right for you.



Living With Diabetes? Get Vaccinated Against Hepatitis B

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends hepatitis B vaccination for appropriate unvaccinated patients with diabetes. Learn more about how you can help prevent hepatitis B infection through vaccination.

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ENBBROC190005 July 2019
Produced in USA. 0002-0002-28

According to the CDC, 850,000 to 2.2 million people have chronic hepatitis in the United States. People living with diabetes have higher rates of hepatitis B than the general population. The best way to help protect yourself from the hepatitis B virus is to get vaccinated.

What Is Hepatitis B?

- Hepatitis B is a contagious liver disease caused by the hepatitis B virus.
- At first, an acute infection develops. An acute infection is a short-term illness that occurs within the first 6 months after exposure to the hepatitis B virus. Some people can fight the virus and clear the infection.
- For others, the infection remains and leads to a chronic, long-term illness. Over time, this can cause serious damage to the liver and lead to complications, including liver failure, cancer, and death.



How Is Hepatitis B Spread?

- Hepatitis B is spread through contact with the blood or other body fluids of someone infected with the virus.
- People living with diabetes are at an increased risk for hepatitis B if they share blood glucose meters, fingerstick devices, or other diabetes care equipment, such as syringes or insulin pens.



CDC Recommendations for Hepatitis B Vaccination

- Hepatitis B vaccination should be given to unvaccinated adults with diabetes who are between 19 and 59 years old.
- For unvaccinated adults with diabetes who are 60 years and older, the CDC recommends hepatitis B vaccination at the discretion of their healthcare provider.
- The hepatitis B vaccination series should be completed as soon as possible after you've been diagnosed with diabetes or if you are unvaccinated and have been diagnosed with diabetes in the past.