



Hepatitis B (HB) Engerix®, Recombivax®

The hepatitis B vaccine protects against a liver infection caused by the hepatitis B virus.

Who should get this vaccine? ^{1,3}

- Routinely given to grade 7 students as part of the school immunization program.
- This vaccine is also available publicly funded (free) for those in the following high risk groups :
- Children <7 years old whose families have immigrated from countries of high prevalence for HBV and who may be exposed to HBV carriers through their extended families
- Household and sexual contacts of chronic carriers and acute cases
- History of a sexually transmitted disease
- Infants born to HBV-positive carrier mothers
- Intravenous drug use
- Liver disease (chronic), including hepatitis B and C
- Awaiting liver transplants
- Men who have sex with men
- Multiple sex partners
- Needle stick injuries in a non-health care setting
- On renal dialysis or those with diseases requiring frequent receipt of blood products
- This vaccine maybe recommended for others based on risk factors and previous immunization history, however they would have to purchase this vaccine.

How well does this vaccine work? ¹

- 95%-100% effective when a full series is complete.
- 99% effective in children who were fully vaccinated between ages of 5-15 years.
- 95 % effective in children immunized under the age of 2.
- In general how well adults respond to the vaccine decreases with age. ¹
- People who have weakened immune systems may not develop as high of an immune response to the vaccine as others. ¹

Is there an alternative to this vaccine?

- There are currently no other treatments to prevent this disease.
- You can do the following things to decrease your risk of contracting HB: ³
- Don't share needles
- Always wear a condom when having sex
- If you are pregnant, have a blood test for HB so you can protect your baby as soon as they are born.
- Be careful not to touch their blood if you know someone has HB.
- Hand washing and covering the mouth and nose while coughing/sneezing can help reduce the spread of disease.

Is this vaccine safe?

The risk of a serious reaction or side effect from this vaccine is much less than the risk of Hepatitis B.

If you experience any side effect worse than what is listed below, please seek medical advice and notify the health unit.

Common side effects of this vaccine ¹

- Pain/swelling in the muscle
- Redness

Less common:

- Fatigue
- Headache
- Irritability

Who should not receive this vaccine?

- Anyone with an allergy to any of the
- vaccine components or who has had
- an allergic or anaphylactic reaction to this vaccine

What is in this vaccine? ^{2,3}

Engerix®	Recombivax®	Also found in...
Aluminum	Aluminum	Breast milk, Antacids
Yeast	Yeast	Bread
Sodium chloride	Sodium chloride	Table salt
2-Phenoxyethanol		Cosmetics, toothpaste
Thimerosal		Cosmetics, Contact lens solution
Polysorbate 20		Ice cream
Disodium phosphate dihydrate		Pudding, Jell-O
Sodium dihydrogen Phosphate dihydrate		Food additives
	Sodium borate	Water
	Formaldehyde	Mushrooms, Pears, Apples
Latex	Latex	Balloons

What else do I need to know?

It is important for you to keep a current record of your child's vaccines. When your child begins school you will be asked to provide a copy of this record to the school, who will forward it onto the health unit.

The health unit is required by law to keep immunization records for all children attending a day nursery or school. Health care providers do not share immunization records with the health unit. This is the parent's responsibility. You can share/update your child's record in the following ways:

Use the secure on-line form on our website – www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/immsonline

Fax a copy to 705-721-1495

Mail a copy to: VPD Program, Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, 15 Sperling Drive, Barrie, ON, L4M 6K9.

Call Your Health Connection at 705-721-7520.

References

Canadian Immunization Guide. Part 4-Active Vaccines: Hepatitis B Vaccine. Ottawa: Public Health Agency of Canada; 2015.

Canadian Immunization Guide. Part 1-Key Immunization Information 2013. Table 1: Types and contents of vaccines available for use in Canada. Ottawa: Public Health Agency of Canada; 2015.

Moore, D. Your Child's Best Shot (4th ed.). Canadian Paediatric Society, 2015