



## **Informed Consent Hepatitis B Vaccine (Recombinant)**

### **Type B Hepatitis**

Type B hepatitis is an infection of the liver caused by the hepatitis B virus (HBV), that is usually transmitted by blood, certain body fluids, or close personal contact.

### **Hepatitis B and Employee Health**

Hepatitis caused by the hepatitis B virus (HBV) is an unpredictable disease with a variety of presentation and outcomes. It is estimated that 60-70% of people who are infected do not become ill. In this circumstance prior infection can only be detected by the presence of an antibody in the blood. Acute symptomatic hepatitis B infection may result in serious liver injury, which may incapacitate a person for weeks to months with approximately 5-10% of persons with Type B hepatitis becoming carriers of the virus. Death occurs in 1-2% of patients either as a result of acute liver failure or complications. HBV also appears to be a causative factor in the development of cirrhosis and liver cancer. There is no effective treatment for the hepatitis B infection.

### **Hepatitis B Vaccine**

Hepatitis B vaccine is a noninfectious vaccine that affords good protection against all forms of HBV infections. (This vaccine will not prevent hepatitis caused by other agents, such as hepatitis A, non-A non-B hepatitis viruses, or other viruses known to infect the liver.) Full immunization requires three (3) doses of the vaccine given over a scheduled period. There is no evidence that the vaccine itself will cause Type B hepatitis. The duration of immunity is unknown at this time and some persons do not respond to the three doses.

### **Who Should Consider the Vaccine**

Hepatitis B vaccine is indicated for susceptible individuals at risk for contracting the hepatitis B infection who have not previously had clinical hepatitis B infection or who have no detectable serum antibody to the agent.

### **Who Should Probably Not Take the Vaccine**

The hepatitis B vaccine may not be indicated for pregnant or nursing mothers and for individuals with severely compromised cardiopulmonary status (because of risk of immediate hypersensitivity reaction). Individualization of each case dictates whether this vaccine should be used in these situations. Persons with health problems should check with their doctor prior to taking the vaccine.

### **Possible Vaccine Side Effects**

The observed incidence of side effects is low. The most common side effects are soreness at the site of the injection and fatigue. Some people also experience fever, redness or swelling at the injection site, headache, or dizziness. More severe side effects are extremely rare but include some of the following: systemic allergic reaction, nervous system reaction (including paralysis), decreased blood clotting ability, asthma-like symptoms, cardiac system reaction (low blood pressure, rapid heart rate), and arthritis.

***If you have any questions about Hepatitis B or the Hepatitis B vaccine, please consult your physician.***

*There has been an evidence of transmission of AIDS through one use of Recombinant.*