

Guidance for Completing the Hepatitis B Series during a Recombivax HB® Shortage: 2018

This document includes clinical considerations and sample schedules for completing the hepatitis B series for children using single-component and combination vaccine products during the Recombivax HB shortage.

Clinical considerations:

- **The recommendations for hepatitis B vaccination of infants have NOT changed.** Providers should continue to follow the recommended schedule outlined in the [Recommended Immunization Schedule for Children and Adolescents Aged 18 Years or Younger](#).
- Only single-component HepB vaccine (Engerix-B® or Recombivax HB) should be used for any dose administered BEFORE 6 weeks of age, including the birth dose. DTaP-IPV-HepB (Pediarix®) should NOT be administered before 6 weeks of age.
- The minimum age for the final (third or fourth) dose of hepatitis B vaccine is 6 months (24 weeks) of age.
- A vaccine series begun with a single-component vaccine can be completed using combination vaccines.
- Providers using single-component vaccine should note the third dose of HepB vaccine is recommended at 6–18 months of age. When vaccinating healthy infants born to hepatitis B surface antigen-negative mothers, single-component HepB vaccine may be administered later within the time frame recommended for the third dose.
 - In populations with high rates of childhood HBV infection (e.g., Alaska Natives, Pacific Islanders, and immigrant families from Asia, Africa, and countries with intermediate or high endemic rates of infection), administer the final dose at age 6–12 months.
- Providers who are using Pediarix vaccine may continue vaccinating infants with no change to clinical practices. The supply of Pediarix vaccine is sufficient to support current immunization recommendations.
- Infants born to mothers who are hepatitis B surface antigen-positive mothers or mothers with unknown hepatitis B status:
 - These infants should complete the series within the first 6 months, followed by serologic testing.
 - Along with hepatitis B vaccine, hepatitis B immune globulin (HBIG) may be recommended. For recommendations regarding use of HBIG, see the [Recommended Immunization Schedule for Children and Adolescents Aged 18 Years or Younger](#).
- The same manufacturer’s DTaP vaccine should be used for all doses in a series. If this is not possible, or if the manufacturer of previous doses is not known, administer any comparable vaccine that is available.

Vaccine supply updates and questions:

- Updates for vaccine supply will be posted on the [CDC Current Vaccine Shortages and Delays](#) web page.
- Health care personnel who have questions or need additional information—contact your state or local health department’s immunization program or nipinfo@cdc.gov.

2018 Recommended Immunization Schedule for Children and Adolescents Aged 18 Years or Younger: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/child-adolescent.html>

Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) Hepatitis B vaccine recommendations: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/vacc-specific/hepb.html>

CDC Current Vaccine Shortages & Delays webpage:

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/clinical-resources/shortages.html>



U.S. Department of
Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention

These sample immunization schedules apply to infants born to hepatitis B surface antigen-negative mothers

1. Using Pediarix for all doses after the birth dose

Birth ¹	2 months	4 months	6 months ²	12–15 months	15–18 months
HepB	Pediarix DTaP-HepB-IPV	Pediarix DTaP-HepB-IPV	Pediarix DTaP-HepB-IPV		
					DTaP ³
	Hib	Hib	Hib ⁴	Hib	

2. Using Pediarix and single-component DTaP and IPV

Birth ¹	2 months	4 months	6 months ²	12–15 months	15–18 months
HepB	Pediarix DTaP-HepB-IPV	DTaP	Pediarix DTaP-HepB-IPV		
		IPV			DTaP ³
		Hib	Hib ⁴	Hib	

3. Using Pentacel® and single-component HepB vaccine

Birth ¹	2 months	4 months	6 months ²	12–15 months	15–18 months
HepB	HepB		HepB		
	Pentacel DTaP-IPV/Hib	Pentacel DTaP-IPV/Hib	Pentacel DTaP-IPV/Hib		DTaP ³
				Hib	

4. Completing the hepatitis B series using all single-component vaccines

Birth ¹	2 months	4 months	6 months ²	12–15 months	15–18 months
HepB	HepB		HepB		
	DTaP	DTaP	DTaP		DTaP ³
	IPV	IPV	IPV		
	Hib	Hib	Hib ⁴	Hib	

¹For infants weighing less than 2,000 grams (4 pounds, 6.5 ounces) at birth, vaccine given at birth should NOT be counted as part of the vaccine series. Three additional doses (for a total of 4 doses) should be administered beginning when the infant reaches 1 month of age. Complete the series within 6 months.

²For infants weighing 2,000 grams (4 pounds, 6.5 ounces) or more at birth, vaccine given at birth DOES count as part of the vaccine series. Two additional doses (for a total of 3 doses) should be administered. A series that includes 4 doses is acceptable, but not required. Complete the series within 6 months.

³The 4th dose of DTaP may be administered as early as age 12 months, provided at least 6 months have elapsed since the 3rd dose.

⁴If using PedvaxHIB a dose at 6 months is not needed.

These sample immunization schedules apply to infants born to hepatitis B surface antigen-positive or unknown status mothers

1. Completing the hepatitis B series using Pediarix for all doses after the birth dose

Birth¹	2 months	4 months²	6 months	12–15 months	15–18 months
HepB	Pediarix DTaP-HepB-IPV	Pediarix DTaP-HepB-IPV	Pediarix DTaP-HepB-IPV		
					DTaP ³
	Hib	Hib	Hib ⁴	Hib	

2. Completing the hepatitis B series using Pentacel

Birth¹	2 months	4 months²	6 months	12–15 months	15–18 months
HepB	HepB	HepB	HepB		
	Pentacel DTaP-IPV/Hib	Pentacel DTaP-IPV/Hib	Pentacel DTaP-IPV/Hib		DTaP ³
				Hib	

3. Completing the hepatitis B series using all single-component vaccines

Birth¹	2 months	4 months²	6 months	12–15 months	15–18 months
HepB	HepB	HepB	HepB		
	DTaP	DTaP	DTaP		DTaP ³
	IPV	IPV	IPV		
	Hib	Hib	Hib ⁴	Hib	

¹For infants weighing less than 2,000 grams (4 pounds, 6.5 ounces) at birth, vaccine given at birth should NOT be counted as part of the vaccine series. Three additional doses (for a total of 4 doses) should be administered beginning when the infant reaches 1 month of age. Complete the series within 6 months.

²For infants weighing 2,000 grams (4 pounds, 6.5 ounces) or more at birth, vaccine given at birth DOES count as part of the vaccine series. Two additional doses (for a total of 3 doses) should be administered. A series that includes 4 doses is acceptable, but not required. Complete the series within 6 months.

³The 4th dose of DTaP may be administered as early as age 12 months, provided at least 6 months have elapsed since the 3rd dose.

⁴If using PedvaxHIB a dose at 6 months is not needed.