

July 14, 2020

VACCINE POINTS

“Vaccine Points” is a bi-monthly communication distributed by the Hawaii Department of Health to all participating Vaccines for Children (VFC) providers.

Test your vaccine knowledge.

Question: Which of the following, if any, is/are Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations for the use of hepatitis A (HepA) vaccine? Select all that apply.

- a) A previously unvaccinated 19-year-old male who receives blood products for hemophilia should receive the HepA vaccine series.
- b) A pregnant woman, previously unvaccinated, planning to travel to Vietnam next month should receive HepA vaccine.
- c) A previously unvaccinated 20-year-old HIV positive female should receive the HepA vaccine series.
- d) An 11-year-old unvaccinated girl should receive the HepA vaccine series.
- e) Twinrix® (combination hepatitis A and hepatitis B vaccine) may be used for hepatitis A post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) for persons 18 years of age and older.
- f) An 8-month-old exposed to his mother recently diagnosed with hepatitis A disease should receive HepA vaccine within 2 weeks of exposure.

Answer: b, c, d

Updated Recommendations from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) on the Prevention of Hepatitis A Virus Infection in the U.S. were published on July 3, 2020. The following are new recommendations:

Persons with blood clotting disorders are no longer specifically recommended to receive HepA vaccine. Previously, some viral inactivation processes focused only on treatment of blood products with solvents and detergents, which did not inactivate nonenveloped viruses such as hepatitis A virus (HAV), resulting in an increased risk for infection; secondary virus reduction steps are now common. In addition, in the U.S., >80% of persons with clotting disorders receive recombinant clotting factor concentrates, which are sterilized, eliminating the risk for HAV contamination. The risk for HAV transmission via transfusion of blood products among persons with clotting disorders is now considered the same as that among the general population.

Pregnant women at risk for HAV infection or severe outcome from HAV infection should be vaccinated with HepA vaccine during pregnancy if not previously vaccinated.

All persons with HIV infection aged ≥ 1 year should be routinely vaccinated with HepA vaccine.

ACIP recommends that all children and adolescents aged 2 – 18 years who have not previously received HepA vaccine should be vaccinated.

Twinrix® is not recommended for post-exposure prophylaxis in persons 18 years of age and older because it contains a pediatric dose of HepA vaccine.

An infant aged <12 months should receive immune globulin (IG) (0.1 mL/kg) instead of HepA vaccine for PEP as soon as possible within 2 weeks of exposure.

For more information, see Source below.

Source: Prevention of Hepatitis A Virus Infection in the United States: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, 2020: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/rr/pdfs/rr6905a1-H.pdf>

