

# 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:

A preterm infant weighing 1800 grams at birth, born to a HBsAg-positive mother should receive which, if any, of the following? Select all that apply.

- a) Initial dose of hepatitis B vaccine when the infant reaches age 1 month
- b) Initial dose of hepatitis B vaccine within 12 hours of delivery
- c) Two additional doses of hepatitis B vaccine at age 1 – 2 months and age 6 months
- d) Three additional doses of hepatitis B vaccine beginning at age 1 month
- e) Post-vaccination serological testing at age 7 months
- f) HBIG 0.5 ml IM at age 1 month
- g) HBIG 0.5 ml IM within 12 hours of delivery

Answer: b, d, g

All infants born to HBsAg-positive women should receive single-antigen hepatitis B vaccine and HBIG (0.5 ml) within 12 hours of birth, administered at different injection sites.

For preterm infants weighing <2000 grams, the initial vaccine dose (birth dose) should not be counted as part of the vaccine series because of the potentially reduced immunogenicity of hepatitis B vaccine in these infants. Three additional doses of vaccine (for a total of 4 doses) should be administered beginning when the infant reaches age 1 month.

Postvaccination testing for anti-HBs and HBsAg should be performed after completion of the vaccine series, at age 9 – 12 months. Testing should not be performed before age 9 months to avoid detection of passive anti-HBs from hepatitis B immune globulin administered at birth and to maximize the likelihood of detecting late HBV infection.

Source:

A Comprehensive Immunization Strategy to Eliminate Transmission of Hepatitis B Virus Infection in the United States, Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) Part 1: Immunization of Infants, Children, and Adolescents

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/r5416a1.htm>

MMWR Update: Shortened Interval for Postvaccination Serologic Testing of Infants Born to Hepatitis B-Infected Mothers

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6439a6.htm>

