

## Testing for Hepatitis B Exposure/Immunity

This information sheet is designed to help you understand all the steps of hepatitis B screening, vaccine administration, and medical follow-up. Hepatitis C may be part of the screening, if risk factors are identified.

### Hepatitis B Screening

*First, it must be determined if you should receive the vaccine:*

- Make a nurse appointment by calling 642-2000 to request hepatitis B vaccine screening.
- If you do not have significant risk factors for past hepatitis B exposure, no screening tests will be needed prior to vaccination.
- The clinic nurse may order a **hepatitis B surface antigen**, a **hepatitis B core antibody**, and a **hepatitis C antibody** test (if hepatitis C risk factors are identified). There are fees for these tests.

### Vaccine Appointments

- At the Specialty Clinic reception desk, make an appointment for the first hepatitis B vaccine shot no sooner than 9-10 days from the date blood is drawn.
- Your lab results will be available for you to pick up at the Info desk 9-10 days after blood is drawn.
- If your results are **negative**, you will not be contacted. You may begin the vaccine series. The nurse who gives the vaccine will have your test results. There is a fee for the vaccine.
- If your hepatitis B core antibody test is **positive**, and your hepatitis B surface antigen test is **negative**, you are already immune to hepatitis B and do not need vaccine. No medical follow-up is needed. *Cancel your hepatitis B vaccine appointment by calling 642-2970. Vaccine is not given to patients who already have antibodies to the virus.*

### Medical Follow-up for Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C Carriers

If the **hepatitis B surface antigen** and/or the **hepatitis C antibody** test is **positive**, **you carry an active virus** that can be transmitted to others, and which can have adverse health consequences for you even if you have no symptoms.

- The nurse will notify you of the positive test results.
- You will need to make an appointment with a clinician to discuss your future medical needs and to receive advice on how to avoid transmission of the virus. The appointment line is 642-2000.

***It is extremely important that you see a clinician if the hepatitis B surface antigen or hepatitis C antibody test is positive!***

Check our website: [www.uhs.berkeley.edu](http://www.uhs.berkeley.edu) to learn more about this medical concern or others.

For an appointment [www.uhs.berkeley.edu](http://www.uhs.berkeley.edu) or call **510-642-2000**

Clinic Nurse **510-643-7197** for advice