

CONNECTICUT COMMUNITY COLLEGE NURSING PROGRAM (CT-CCNP)
*Capital Community College, Gateway Community College, Norwalk Community College,
Naugatuck Valley Community College, Three Rivers Community College*

**HEPATITIS B VACCINE
INFORMATION AND REFUSAL FORM**

The Disease

Hepatitis B is a viral infection caused by the hepatitis B virus (HBV) which causes death in 1-2% of patients. Most people with hepatitis B recover completely, but approximately 5-10% become chronic carriers of the virus. Most of these people have no symptoms, but can continue to transmit the disease to others. Some may develop chronic active hepatitis and cirrhosis. HBV also appears to be a causative factor in the development of liver cancer. Thus, immunization against hepatitis B can prevent acute hepatitis and also reduce sickness and death from chronic active hepatitis, cirrhosis and liver cancer.

The Vaccine

Recombivax HB* is a non-infectious subunit viral vaccine derived from Hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) produced in yeast cells. A portion of the Hepatitis B virus gene, coding for HBsAg, is cloned into yeast, and the vaccine for hepatitis B is produced from cultures of this recombinant yeast strain. The vaccine contains no detectable yeast DNA but may contain up to 4 yeast protein. It has been extensively tested for safety in chimpanzees and for safety and efficacy in large scale clinical trials with human subjects. The vaccine against hepatitis B, prepared from recombinant yeast cultures, is free of association with human blood or blood products. A high percentage of healthy people who receive two doses of vaccine and a booster achieve high levels of surface antibody (anti-HBs) and protection against hepatitis B. People with immune-system abnormalities, such as dialysis patients, have less response to the vaccine, but over half of those receiving it do develop antibodies. Full immunization requires 3 doses of vaccine over a six month period although some people may not develop immunity even after 3 doses. There is no evidence that the vaccine has ever caused hepatitis B, non-A/non-B hepatitis, or AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome). However, people who have been infected with HBV prior to receiving the vaccine may go on to develop clinical hepatitis in spite of immunization. The duration of immunity is unknown at this time.

Possible Vaccine Side Effects

The incidence of side effects is very low. No serious side effects have been reported with the vaccine. A few people experience tenderness, redness and itching at the site of injection. Low grade fever and/or headache may occur. Rash, nausea, joint pain, diarrhea, and mild fatigue have also been reported. The possibility exists that more serious side effects may be identified with more extensive use.

IF THERE IS A POSSIBILITY OF PREGNANCY, DO NOT RECEIVE THE VACCINE.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT HEPATITIS B OR THE HEPATITIS VACCINE, PLEASE ASK.

HEPATITIS B REFUSAL FORM

REFUSAL FORM

I have read the above statements about the Hepatitis B Vaccine. I have had the opportunity to ask questions and understand the benefits and risk of vaccination. Despite the potential benefits, I prefer not to be immunized at this time. I understand I may change my decision and receive the vaccine at a later date.

Name (PLEASE PRINT)

SIGNATURE

DATE