

Hepatitis Vaccines

Hepatitis C (HCV or Hep C for short) can damage the liver so it is important – if you have not already been infected with hepatitis A or hepatitis B – that you protect yourself by getting the vaccines (medicines to prevent disease or illnesses). If someone already has one type of hepatitis and they get another type of liver disease like hepatitis A or hepatitis B it can cause so much **damage** to the liver that a person could even die.

The **hepatitis A vaccine** is given as a shot (injection) of medicine. The shots are given two times – usually 6 to 12 months (1/2 to 1 year) apart.

The **hepatitis B vaccine** is given in 3 shots – usually the second shot is given one month after the first shot, and the third one is given six months after the first shot.

There is also a combination vaccine (3 shots) that will protect you from getting both hepatitis A and hepatitis B.

There is NO vaccine to protect people from getting hepatitis C (HCV).

Remember.....

- ◆ If you have hepatitis C talk to a doctor or nurse about **protecting** yourself from getting another hepatitis virus.
- ◆ Don't worry if you **miss one** of the hepatitis shots – you don't have to start over – just pick up where you left off.