

a series of fact sheets written
by experts in the field of liver
disease

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HCV Wellness: Immunizations for Adults

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The following 2007 vaccine schedule for adults is from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). This fact sheet is a simplified version emphasizing important aspects for those with chronic hepatitis C viral infection (HCV). Talk to your medical provider if you are pregnant, have a history of spleen problems, have cancer, HIV or another immune compromised condition such as those requiring corticosteroids, diabetes, heart or renal disease, asthma or other chronic pulmonary disease, certain allergies or are a healthcare worker.

Patients who are undergoing HCV treatment can be immunized during treatment. In fact, that may be an excellent time to be vaccinated since interferon stimulates your immune response. There is no universal guidance on the necessity of flu or pneumonia vaccines for those under the recommended immunization ages who are receiving HCV treatment.

Tetanus-Diphtheria (Td) vaccine – all adults, 1 dose every 10 years after initial series of 3 doses^a

Influenza (Flu) vaccine – adults 50 and older, annually^b

Pneumococcal vaccine – adults 65 and older and those with chronic liver disease, one-time^c

Hepatitis A (HAV) vaccine – adults at risk, especially those with chronic liver disease, series of 2 injections^d

Hepatitis B (HBV) vaccine – adults at risk, especially those with chronic liver disease, series of 3 injections^e

Measles-Mumps-Rubella (MMR) vaccine – susceptible adults and people born after 1956 without proof of immunity, 1 to 2 doses depending on circumstances

Varicella (chickenpox) vaccine – all adults without evidence of immunity, 2 doses

Meningococcal – college freshmen residing in dorms, persons at risk of exposure, 1 dose although revaccination 3-5 years is recommended for those at high risk

Human papillomavirus (HPV) – women through age 26, series of 3 doses

Zoster (shingles) and post-herpetic neuralgia – adults 60 yrs and older and those with chronic medical conditions unless contraindicated, single dose

Travelers may find information about vaccine recommendations at the CDC website - www.cdc.gov

^a Many medical providers recommend a tetanus booster if your booster is over 5 years old and you have an event such as a dog bite or puncture wound.

^b Public health officials will amend these recommendations if there is a flu vaccine shortage.

^c A one-time revaccination is recommended for people who have certain medical conditions or who were less than 65 and their pneumococcal vaccine occurred more than 5 years previously.

^d HAV and HBV vaccines are available in a combination form.

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For more information about hepatitis C, hepatitis B and HCV coinfections, please visit www.hcvadvocate.org.

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The information in this fact sheet is designed to help you understand and manage HCV and is not intended as medical advice. All persons with HCV should consult a medical practitioner for diagnosis and treatment of HCV.

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