

# **HEPATITIS B VACCINE INFORMATION AND CONSENT FORM**

Firefighters, Law Enforcement Personnel, Park & Rec. Employees, Paramedic, EMT's and health care workers are at a higher risk than the general population of acquiring infection with Hepatitis B virus. Increased risk is associated with frequent direct and indirect contact with blood which can be infected with the virus. You are considered to be at higher risk of Hepatitis B because of your work.

## **THE DISEASE**

Hepatitis B is a viral infection caused by the Hepatitis B virus (HBV) which causes death in 1-2% of infected individuals. Most people with Hepatitis B recover completely, but approximately 5-10% become chronic carriers of the virus. Most of these people will show no symptoms, but can continue to spread the disease to others. A small percentage of people 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**

Hepatitis B vaccine (Recombinant) is a non-infectious sub unit viral vaccine derived from Hepatitis B surface antigen produced in yeast cells. A portion of the Hepatitis B virus gene is cloned into yeast and the vaccine from Hepatitis B is produced from cultures. This vaccine is free of association with human blood or blood products. Each lot of vaccine is tested for safety in mice and guinea pigs.

Full immunization requires 3 does of vaccine over a six-month period. There is no evidence that the vaccine has ever caused Hepatitis B. However, persons 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.

## **CONTRAINDICATIONS**

Hypersensitivity to yeast.

## **POSSIBLE VACCINE SIDE EFFECTS**

The incidence of side effects is very low. Recombivax is generally well tolerated. No serious side effects have been reported with the vaccine. As with any vaccine, there is the possibility that increased use of the vaccine could reveal adverse reactions not observed in clinical trials. A very low percentage (1% or less of 3258 doses administered) experienced soreness, pain, redness/rash and tenderness at the injection site, mild fatigue, weakness, low grade fever and nausea.

Data is not available on the safety of the vaccine for developing fetus. Recombivax HB should be given to a pregnant woman only if clearly needed.

YES I WISH TO RECEIVE THE HEPATITIS B VACCINE

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SIGNATURE

NO I DO NOT WISH TO RECEIVE THE HEPATITIS B VACCINE

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE

NO I HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED THE HEPATITIS B VACCINE

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

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Updated  
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