



**INFORMATION ON VACCINATION
AGAINST HEPATITIS B
with Engerix-B 10 micrograms/0.5 ml**

Dear parents or guardians,

Hepatitis B is a liver infection that is caused by the highly contagious hepatitis B virus and is spread through blood and other body fluids (saliva, semen) containing the virus. The virus usually enters through small injuries of skin or mucous membranes, but it can also be spread through objects (toothbrushes, razor blades, injection needles, acupuncture needles, tattoo equipment) contaminated with infected secretions. Hepatitis B is a disease whose course varies from person to person. Most people have no symptoms at all. The first signs of the disease are uncharacteristic and mostly include tiredness, loss of appetite and nausea. The acute disease includes symptoms like vomiting, jaundice, light-coloured stools, dark urine, itchy skin, rash, joint aches, an enlarged, pressure-sensitive liver and fever. In Europe 0.5 to 1% of acute infections cause death. Ten percent of infected people (30 to 90% in babies and young children) carry the virus all their lives and become chronically infected. A chronic liver infection can later develop into cirrhosis or liver cancer.

Hepatitis B is one of the major health issues worldwide. About two billion people have been infected with hepatitis B and approx. 350 million people are living with chronic hepatitis B infection. Since there is still no specific or effective treatment for the infection or the chronic course of the disease, vaccination offers the only protection available. The hepatitis B vaccine is recommended to all children at the age of 7 months or older, but it can also be given at a later age. All children should be vaccinated against hepatitis B by age 13 at the latest. Getting the vaccine is particularly advised for people at a high risk of infection, such as healthcare professionals.

Initial immunisation consists of 2 doses of vaccine given at least 4 weeks apart and a 3rd dose administered 6 to 12 months after dose 1. Initial immunisation in infancy and early childhood should be followed by a booster vaccine between age 7 and 13. People who have been initially immunised against hepatitis B at a later age than infancy or early childhood and do not belong to one of the high-risk groups do not need a booster vaccine according to the current state of knowledge. Individual protection levels can be determined by a blood test (antibody test).

Vaccine

The vaccine contains a purified surface antigen of the hepatitis B virus and provides active immunisation, i. e. the body is stimulated to build antibodies. The vaccine against hepatitis B currently used for children and young people up to the age of 15 years is Engerix-B 10 micrograms/0.5 ml.

Please turn over – Thank you!

Side effects

Like other medicines, vaccines can also cause unwanted side effects. Together with this information sheet, you will also receive the patient leaflet for the vaccine, which contains information about its composition, possible contraindications and side effects. Please report any reactions and side effects, especially such which are not listed in the patient leaflet, to your doctor immediately.

Getting vaccinated

A vaccination can only be performed by the school doctors of Municipal Department 15 – Public Health Services if the child's parents/guardians have signed and submitted the consent form.

However, your consent does not guarantee that your child will automatically be vaccinated. This decision is made by the doctor on the basis of the information you have provided. If your child has been ill or has received any other vaccination in the period of time between filling in the consent form and the actual vaccination appointment, please tell the doctor or your child's class teacher before the vaccination. The school will inform you of the vaccination date in good time.

PLEASE HAVE YOUR CHILD BRING ALL VACCINATION DOCUMENTS.

(health passport, vaccination passport, vaccination card)

This will help the doctor to check which vaccine your child needs.

THANK YOU!