

Two Dose HepB Option for Adolescents 11 through 15 Years of Age

Merck's Recombivax-HB® adult formulation vaccine is licensed for a 2-dose series for adolescents 11 through 15 years of age. The schedule for this series is 0 and 4-6 months, with 0 being the date of the first dose. This series fulfills the HepB vaccine requirement for adolescents attending school in Oklahoma as stated in the school immunization regulations if it is completed from 11 through 15 years of age.

This vaccine and schedule should be used for adolescents who have not received any prior doses of HepB vaccine. If an adolescent has previously received a dose of pediatric HepB vaccine, no matter how long ago, the adolescent should complete the series with 2 more doses of pediatric HepB vaccine. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends that children who started but did not complete the 3-dose HepB vaccine series with a pediatric formulation of HepB vaccine complete the series with a pediatric formulation.

The 2-dose series of Merck's Adult HepB vaccine must be completed before the 16th birthday. If the 2-dose series is not completed by the 16th birthday, the series should be completed with the HepB pediatric formulation 3-dose series; with dose 2 given 4 weeks after dose 1 and dose 3 given 8 weeks after dose 2 and at least 16 weeks after dose 1.

Use of the 2-dose option is not mandatory. It is a choice. Alternatively, adolescents who have not received HepB vaccine previously may receive the routine 3 doses of pediatric HepB vaccine. The 2-dose option is not available for adults. It is available only for adolescents 11 through 15 years of age. Also, GlaxoSmithKline's HepB vaccine, Engerix®, is not licensed for this option at any age.

Please note that Merck's adult HepB vaccine is not available for adolescents through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program. It must be purchased privately.

Information on the 2-dose series is included in footnote #1 on the "Recommended Immunization Schedule for Persons Aged 0 Through 18 years United States, 2015" available at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/downloads/child/0-18yrs-child-combined-schedule.pdf>

For more information please review the package insert for Recombivax available at:

<http://www.fda.gov/downloads/BiologicsBloodVaccines/Vaccines/ApprovedProducts/UCM110114.pdf>

If you have any questions, please call the Immunization Service at (405) 271-4073 or 800-234-6196.