

Title	Access to Free Hepatitis B Vaccine
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References	NHMRC <i>Australian Immunisation Handbook</i> 9th Edition 2008 ¹
<p>5.1 In South Australia, hospitals providing obstetric services can access free hepatitis B vaccine for the vaccination of all newborns.</p> <p>The hepatitis B vaccine is to be administered to newborns within 7 days (preferably within 24 hours of birth).</p> <p>Catch-up for infants who did not receive hepatitis B vaccine within 7 days of birth is not required¹.</p>	
<p>5.2 In South Australia, all immunisation service providers can access FREE hepatitis B vaccine (adult or paediatric formulation) for the vaccination of clients in defined categories as follows:</p> <p>5.2.1 Infants and young children born since May 2000</p> <p>If hepatitis B vaccination schedule has been deferred, delayed or is incomplete.</p> <p>5.2.2 Pre-term infants (less than 32 weeks gestation or less than 2000 grams at birth). These children require either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Serology measuring their anti-HBs at 7 months of age followed by a booster at 12 months of age if their antibody titre is less than 10mIU/mL OR - A 4th booster dose of hepatitis B vaccine at 12 months of age. Measuring of antibody titre is not required. <p>5.2.3 Children and Adults of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent</p> <p>If a hepatitis B vaccination schedule has been deferred, delayed or is incomplete.</p> <p>5.2.4 Individuals Born Overseas</p> <p>5.2.4.1 Children who have migrated from overseas, now living in South Australia (Note: These children do not require pre-vaccination screening)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If born after May 2000 and have not commenced a course of hepatitis B vaccine or need to complete a course of hepatitis B vaccine. 	



- If children are born **before May 2000**, they will be offered the vaccine through the school based immunisation program in Year 8 (refer to Policy no. 4 'Adolescent School Based Immunisation Program').

5.2.4.2 New Arrival Refugees (Adults and Children)

Vaccines can be accessed by New Arrival Refugee Immunisation (NARI) Providers offering vaccines to humanitarian refugees.

Table 1: Steps for Prevaccination screening for NARI Program

Step 1	Take serology for HbsAg and anti-HBs
Step 2	Administer hepatitis B vaccine (dose 1)
Step 3	Interpret results of pre-vaccination screening: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If HBsAg negative and anti-HBs negative continue hepatitis B course (dose 2 and 3 at least 2 months apart) - If HBsAg negative and anti-HBs positive then no further vaccine required as immune due to natural infection - If HBsAg positive and anti-HBs negative no further vaccine required as either acute or chronic infection indicated

5.2.5 Sexual contacts

- 5.2.5.1 Susceptible (anti-HBs and anti-HBc negative) sexual partners of asymptomatic carriers (HBsAg positive) or partners of persons with acute hepatitis B should receive hepatitis B vaccine and hepatitis B immunoglobulin (HBIG) within 14 days of last sexual contact. HBIG is available from the Red Cross – phone (08) 8422 1200
- 5.2.5.2 Sexually active men who have sex with men and are HBsAg and anti-HBs negative
- 5.2.5.3 Anti-HBs negative clients of sexual health services who at the time of first visit are considered susceptible.

5.2.6 Household contacts

Anti-HBs negative household contacts of acute and chronic hepatitis B carriers. This includes anti-HBs negative adults adopting children from overseas who are HbsAg positive.

5.2.7 Other

- 5.2.7.1 Individuals with chronic liver disease and/or hepatitis C if anti-HBs negative
- 5.2.7.2 Inmates of long-term correctional facilities if anti-HBs negative
- 5.2.7.3 Individuals who sustain a needle stick injury that is **not** subject to an Occupational Health Safety & Welfare (OHS&W) claim.

5.2.7.4 Intravenous drug users

5.3 In South Australia, immunisation service providers conducting school based adolescent immunisation programs can access free hepatitis B vaccine (for details refer to Policy no. 4 'Adolescent School Based Immunisation Program')

5.4 The vaccine is NOT provided free by the SA Vaccine Distribution Centre for all other individuals/groups for which there is a Hepatitis B vaccine recommendation in the NHMRC immunisation handbook.

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