

**Emporia State University
Athletic Training Education Program
Hepatitis B Vaccination/Declination Form**

I have received information concerning the Hepatitis B virus and the Hepatitis B vaccine. I understand the benefits and risks involved with receiving the vaccine. I understand the risks associated with contracting the disease while caring for patients/clients during my clinical courses.

Student Signature

Date

All athletic trainers, who have been identified as being at risk for exposure to blood or other potentially infectious materials, are offered the Hepatitis B vaccine. The three stage vaccine is offered through Emporia State University's Student Health Center or the Lyon County Health Department (Emporia, KS) at minimal cost to the athletic training student. **Directions: Complete ONE of the sections below. Either verification of immunization series or completion of the declination statement is required prior to beginning a clinical experience.**

Hepatitis B Vaccination

_____ I will obtain the vaccination at my own expense and show documentation after each phase is completed.

_____ I have received the Hepatitis B vaccination and have attached documentation in support of this.

Student Signature

Date

Hepatitis B Vaccine Declination Statement

I understand that due to my occupational exposure to blood or other potentially infectious materials I may be at risk of acquiring hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection. I have been given the opportunity to be vaccinated with hepatitis B vaccine, at no charge to me; however, I decline hepatitis B vaccination at this time. I understand that by declining this vaccine I continue to be at risk of acquiring hepatitis B, a serious disease. If, in the future, I continue to have occupational exposure to blood or other potentially infectious materials and I want to be vaccinated with hepatitis B vaccine, I can choose to receive the vaccination series.

I further understand that neither Emporia State University, the Department of HPER, the Athletic Training Education Program, nor the clinical agencies are responsible for the payment of or provision for health care should I acquire Hepatitis B or become exposed to the Hepatitis B virus.

Student Name Printed

Student Signature

Date

Hepatitis B Information

What Is Hepatitis?

The liver is one of the body's powerhouses. It helps process nutrients and metabolizes medication. The liver also helps clear the body of toxic waste products.

The word hepatitis (pronounced: heh-puh-tie-tus) means an inflammation of the liver, and it can be caused by one of many things - including a viral or bacterial infection, liver injury caused by a toxin (poison), and even an attack on the liver by the body's own immune system.

Although there are several forms of hepatitis, the condition is usually caused by one of three viruses: hepatitis A, hepatitis B, or hepatitis C virus. The hepatitis virus is a mutating virus, which means that it changes over time and can be difficult for the body to fight. In some cases, hepatitis B or C can destroy the liver. The patient then will need a liver transplant to survive, which is not always available or successful.

Hepatitis B

Hepatitis B is a more serious infection. It may lead to a condition called cirrhosis (permanent scarring of the liver) or liver cancer, both of which cause severe illness and even death. Hepatitis B is transmitted from person to person through blood or other body fluids.

In the United States, the most common way people get infected with hepatitis B is through unprotected sex with a person who has the disease. People who shoot drugs also are at risk of becoming infected because it's likely that the needles they use will not have been sterilized. In fact, about one in every 20 people living in the United States will become infected with the hepatitis B virus - and the risk of infection is greater for people who have unprotected sex or inject drugs. That's scary stuff given that, as yet, there's no effective cure for hepatitis B. In most cases, a teen who gets hepatitis B will recover from the disease and may develop a natural immunity to future hepatitis B infections. But some people will have the condition forever. Medications can help some people with hepatitis B get rid of the virus.

What Are the Signs and Symptoms?

Hepatitis infection causes inflammation of the liver, which means that the liver becomes swollen and damaged and begins losing its ability to function. People with hepatitis often get symptoms similar to those caused by other virus infections, such as weakness, tiredness, and nausea. Because the symptoms of hepatitis are similar to other conditions, it's easy for a person who has it to confuse it with another illness. In addition, people with hepatitis A may not show any symptoms of the infection, so the infection can go undiagnosed. People with hepatitis B or C infection also may not show symptoms right away, but can develop health problems from the infection many years later.

Symptoms of hepatitis include:

- yellowing of the skin and eyes, known as jaundice
- fever
- nausea, vomiting, and lack of appetite
- abdominal pain (on the upper right side)
- light-colored bowel movements
- dark-colored urine

The incubation period (how long it takes between the time a person becomes infected and symptoms first appear) for hepatitis varies depending on the type a person has. A person may notice these symptoms anywhere from 15 days to 25 weeks after getting the disease, depending on the type of hepatitis.

Protecting Yourself

There are vaccines available to protect people against hepatitis A and hepatitis B. Today, all children in the United States are routinely vaccinated against hepatitis B at birth. Because hepatitis A is usually not a serious illness, doctors generally recommend this vaccination only for people who are at high risk of catching the disease. Usually these are people who are traveling to certain parts of the world where sanitation isn't very good. Sometimes, if a person has been recently exposed to hepatitis A or B virus, a doctor may recommend a shot of immune globulin containing antibodies against the virus to try to prevent the person from coming down with the disease.

Hepatitis infection can be serious, but knowing what puts you at risk (and what doesn't - no one gets hepatitis from sneezes, coughs, or holding hands) can help protect you.

This information is provided by: John Tung, MD (<http://kidshealth.org/teen/infections/stds/hepatitis.html>)