Version 1, 280923, ADV-101

Optima Health

Hepatitis B Vaccination for Prison Staff

For prison staff who have been identified by risk assessment to be at an increased risk of exposure to blood-borne viruses, it is recommended that they be immunised against Hepatitis B. HMPPS have a duty of care to provide Hepatitis B vaccination for staff who consent to having it due to the risk their job role present.

Did you know...

- The Hep B vaccine is 95% effective in adults.
- Hep B is available free to those considered at risk within the workplace.

How do I get the Hep B vaccine?

- Check with your manager if you are eligible.
- If yes, talk to your on-site Immunisations Co-ordinator about getting registered with Occupational Health (OH) and get booked into the next immunisation clinic.

Is it a one-off vaccine?

- No, it is a course of three vaccines over approximately three months.
- Even if there has been a break of many years between your last vaccine, OH will be able to update your status if you have not completed the full course.

What does it mean to me?

- Hep B is transmitted by being exposed to an infected person via blood and bodily fluids. E.g., Needlestick injuries, bites, blood and bodily fluids.
- It can be spread in the same way as HIV either through body fluid exposure or unprotected sexual intercourse but it is about 100 times more infectious and therefore easier to catch.
- Often individuals do not know they have it, but once positive, they can pass it on to others.
- It can be acute; short-term and severe or chronic; long-term, chronic Hep B may develop into progressive liver disease and complications like cirrhosis and liver cancer can arise.

If you are at occupational risk from Hepatitis B, speak to your Immunisation Co-ordinator to book your vaccine!