Hepatitis B in Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD)
Supporting the needs of people with kidney disease

What is Hepatitis B?
Hepatitis B can cause liver disease and is spread through contact with blood and other body fluids.

Hepatitis B is very infectious and can survive outside the body in dried blood for more than one week. It only takes a very small amount of infected blood to cause an infection. This tiny amount cannot always be seen by the naked eye.

Hepatitis B is difficult to treat; therefore we recommend prevention by vaccination.

People with kidney disease are considered at high-risk of contracting Hepatitis B, especially once started on dialysis (particularly haemodialysis).

There are many reasons for this including the use of some drugs that reduce your immunity and also the potential risk of exposure to blood, for example, blood spills on equipment.

Considerable effort is made to keep you safe from contracting Hepatitis B by careful hand washing and cleaning of equipment.

Occasional accidental blood spills do occur and we recommend you have your Hepatitis B vaccination before you start on dialysis or have a kidney transplant.

It has been proven that you are more likely to have a good response to the vaccinations, if you are vaccinated while your kidneys are still working a little.
How is the Hepatitis B vaccination given?

To start, your blood will be tested to make sure you do not have Hepatitis B or already have protection against Hepatitis B.

The vaccinations will then be ordered by your doctor. You will need three injections (needles) of the Dialysis Formulation Vaccine (40ug) given over a six month period.

These are given at zero, one and six months. The injections are given into the deltoid muscle, at the top of your arm. One month after you have had all three injections, your blood will be tested again to see if you have developed immunity to Hepatitis B.

Sometimes a second course of Hepatitis B is required if you did not develop immunity after the first course.

How much do the HBV vaccinations cost?

There will be no cost to you if you have your vaccinations at Sunshine Coast University Hospital, Nambour, Gympie or Caloundra Hospitals. However if you choose to go to your local doctor, the cost to you will vary.

Are there any side-effect of the Hepatitis B vaccinations?

The Hepatitis B vaccine is well tolerated.

Notify us if you have ever had a reaction to a previous Hepatitis B vaccination or are allergic to yeast.

Most reactions from the vaccination are minor and only last a short time.

Some of these include:
- soreness at the injection site
- fever
- nausea
- dizziness
- decreased energy.

### Vaccination Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vaccination</th>
<th>Due date:</th>
<th>Date given:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vaccination 1 (0 month)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vaccination 2 (1 month)</td>
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<td>Vaccination 3 (6 month)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blood test 4 weeks after 3rd vaccination</td>
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