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Publicly Funded Hepatitis A Vaccine Program for High Risk Individuals	David McKeown, MDCM, MHSc, FRCPC Medical Officer of Health
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Publicly Funded Hepatitis A Vaccine

The Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care initiated a hepatitis A vaccination program for high risk individuals on September 26, 2003.

Only the following clients are eligible for publicly funded hepatitis A vaccine:

- Individuals with chronic liver disease (CLD), including those with hepatitis C
- Intravenous drug users (IDUs)
- Men who have sex with men (MSM)
- Household and sexual contacts of acute cases



Included you will find a sample information tear off sheet for your patients. Tear off pads are FREE and can be ordered by request on vaccine order form in the Other section or by calling (905) 799-7700.

All acute hepatitis A cases must be immediately reported to Peel Health to ensure proper follow up.

Pre-vaccination Serologic Testing

Pre-vaccination serologic testing for immunity to hepatitis A should be considered in populations that have expected high rates of prior infection including:

- men who have sex with men
- intravenous drug users
- people who were born in or lived in areas with high rates of hepatitis A infection (Central and South America, Africa, Asia)
- adults >40 years of age

There is no increase in risk associated with administering vaccine to an individual that has immunity to hepatitis A.

Dosage Schedule

Hepatitis A vaccine is given in a two-dose schedule. The second dose is given 6-12 months after the first dose to ensure long-term protection.

Route of Administration

Hepatitis A vaccine should be administered intramuscularly.

Storage Requirements (Cold-chain)

Hepatitis A vaccine should be stored at a temperature between 2°C and 8°C. All vaccine cold chain requirements must be applied to this vaccine.

Combination Vaccines

Hepatitis A and hepatitis B vaccine are publicly funded only as separate vaccines. Combined vaccines are **not** publicly funded.

Ordering Publicly Funded Hepatitis A Vaccine

To order hepatitis A vaccine, please call Health Line Peel at **(905)799-7700**. Vaccines will be released on a case by case basis. No stock orders are permitted.

The vaccine can be picked up at your regular vaccine pick up site.

Faxing Vaccine Orders

Peel Health strongly recommends faxing vaccine orders that do not require a phone call to the health department.

For further information please call:
Health Line Peel at (905)799-7700 or visit our website at www.peelregion.ca