

## HBvaxPRO 5mcg and 10mcg are out of stock until 2019

Engerix-B 20mcg/1mL replaces HBvaxPRO 5mcg and 10mcg until HBvaxPRO is available again. Recombivax HB® 10mcg, which was distributed towards the end of 2017, is no longer available. Funded Engerix-B vaccine is distributed by ProPharma.

**Engerix-B is used in the same manner as HBvaxPro 5mcg and 10mcg.** HBvaxPRO 40mcg continues to be available for adults aged 18 years or older who are on renal dialysis or who are liver or kidney transplant patients.

## Eligibility for funded hepatitis B vaccine

- » Household or sexual contacts of known acute hepatitis B patients or hepatitis B carriers
- » Babies born to mothers who are hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) positive
- » Children aged under 18 years inclusive who are considered not to have achieved a positive serology and require additional vaccination or require a primary course of vaccination
- » HIV positive patients
- » Hepatitis C positive patients
- » Following non-consensual sexual intercourse
- » Following immunosuppression longer than 28 days
- » Solid organ transplant patients
- » Post-haematopoietic stem cell transplant (HSCT) patients
- » Following needle stick injury
- » Dialysis patients
- » Liver or kidney transplant patients

## Clinical questions and answers

**Can I decant the Engerix-B 20mcg/1mL into another syringe and just give half or a quarter of the volume (0.5mL or 0.25mL) to a patient?**

**No.** This is not recommended and not supported as best practice for prefilled syringe vaccines.

**Engerix-B contains more hepatitis B antigen than HBvaxPRO, will this increase vaccine responses?**

There are no concerns about increased vaccine responses. Common, expected vaccine responses are similar for all hepatitis B vaccine strengths and include mild pain, redness and swelling around injection site, nausea or vomiting, abdominal pain, diarrhoea, decreased appetite.

**Is it safe to administer 1mL of vaccine into the vastus lateralis (VL) of neonates and infants?**

Yes, the maximum recommended volume for an intramuscular (IM) injection into the VL of neonates and infants is 1mL. If a neonate is due for hepatitis B immunoglobulin (HBIG), hepatitis B vaccine and vitamin K, we continue to recommend that the HBIG and vitamin K be given IM in one VL, separating the injection sites by 2–3cms and the hepatitis B vaccine be given in the other VL.

**Can we use Engerix-B for the two-dose adolescent schedule?**

Yes, Based on safety and immunogenicity data supporting the interchangeability of vaccine brands, a two-dose course of Engerix-B 20mcg can be considered for adolescents aged 11–15 years, with the second dose given 4–6 months after the first. As this is off-label use for Engerix-B, the two-dose adolescent schedule needs to be prescribed by a doctor or nurse practitioner with prescribing rights.

## References/further information

- » Immunisation Advisory Centre. HBvaxPRO vaccine webpage.  
Available at: <http://www.immune.org.nz/vaccines/available-vaccines/hbvaxpro>.
- » Ministry of Health. Immunisation Handbook 2017. Wellington:Ministry of Health.  
Available from: <https://www.health.govt.nz/publication/immunisation-handbook-2017>.
- » Ministry of Health. Immunisation Update 12 December 2017.  
Available at: <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/preventative-health-wellness/immunisation>.
- » PHARMAC. Pharmaceutical Schedule February 2018.  
Available at: <http://www.pharmac.govt.nz/2018/02/01/Schedule.pdf>.