


# Are your adult patients with HIV and hepatitis C getting all the vaccinations they need?

Sometimes vaccinations are overlooked when managing patients with complex medical conditions. Please give your HIV- or HCV-infected patients copies of the educational pieces below to help them stay informed about the vaccines they need.

For a ready-to-copy 8½ x 11" version of this piece, visit [www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4041hiv.pdf](http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4041hiv.pdf).



## If you have HIV infection, which vaccinations do you need?


The chart below shows which vaccinations you should have to protect your health. Make sure you and your healthcare provider keep your vaccinations up to date.

<b>Influenza</b>	<i>Yes!</i> Because your immune system is weakened, you have a greater risk of developing complications from influenza. You should get this vaccine each fall.
<b>Pneumococcal</b>	<i>Yes!</i> This vaccine is specifically recommended for you because of your HIV infection. If you haven't been vaccinated, you should get one dose now. If you were vaccinated when you were younger than age 65 and you are 65 years or older now, you should get another dose now, provided at least 5 years have passed since your first dose.
<b>Tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis (Td, Tdap)</b>	<i>Yes!</i> If you haven't had at least 3 doses of tetanus-and-diphtheria-containing shots sometime in your life, you need to start or complete a 3-dose series now. Start with dose #1, followed by dose #2 in 1 month, and dose #3 in 6 months. You'll also need a Td booster dose every 10 years. If you're younger than 65 years, your next booster dose should also contain pertussis (whooping cough) vaccine—known as Tdap. Be sure to consult your healthcare provider any time you get a deep or dirty wound.
<b>Hepatitis A (Hep A)</b>	<i>Maybe.</i> You may be at higher risk for hepatitis A virus infection if you meet certain criteria (e.g., plan to travel outside the U.S. [except for Canada, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, and Western Europe], are a man who has sex with men, are an injecting drug user). If you have any of the risk factors listed above, you'll need 2 doses of this vaccine, spaced 6–18 months apart. Discuss your need for a screening blood test with your healthcare provider.
<b>Hepatitis B (Hep B)</b>	<i>Maybe.</i> Because you are HIV positive, you may also be at risk for hepatitis B virus infection. If you haven't had a series of hepatitis B vaccinations, you need 3 doses of this vaccine. Start with dose #1 now, followed by dose #2 in 1 month, and dose #3 approximately 5 months later. If you started the 3-dose series earlier but didn't complete it, you can simply continue from where you left off. Discuss your need for screening blood tests with your healthcare provider.
<b>Measles, mumps, rubella (MMR)</b>	<i>Maybe.</i> Most adults are already protected because they got MMR vaccine as children or had measles, mumps, and rubella. If you weren't previously protected, were born in 1957 or later, and have no HIV symptoms or only mild symptoms, you need at least 1 dose of MMR. If you have moderate or severe symptoms from HIV, you should not receive MMR. If you are exposed to measles, call your healthcare provider right away. If you get measles, you are at risk of developing severe complications because of your HIV infection.
<b>Meningococcal</b>	<i>Maybe.</i> Because of your HIV infection, you may be at increased risk for meningococcal disease, a rare but sometimes fatal bacterial infection. Talk to your healthcare provider about getting vaccinated against this disease.
<b>Varicella (Chickenpox)</b>	<i>Yes!</i> Most adults are already protected because they had chickenpox as children (once you've had chickenpox, you're unlikely to get it again). If you never had chickenpox or the vaccine, you cannot receive varicella vaccine now because you are HIV infected. If you come in contact with a person who has chickenpox, call your healthcare provider right away.

**Do you travel outside the United States?** If so, you may need additional vaccines. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) operates an international traveler's health information line. Call (877) 394-8347 or visit CDC's website at [www.cdc.gov/travel](http://www.cdc.gov/travel) for information about your destination. You may also consult a travel clinic or your healthcare professional.

[www.immunize.org/p4041hiv.pdf](http://www.immunize.org/p4041hiv.pdf) • Item #P4041 (2/06)  
 Immunization Action Coalition • 1573 Sibley Ave. • St. Paul, MN 55104 • (651) 647-9009 • [www.vaccineinformation.org](http://www.vaccineinformation.org) • [www.immunize.org](http://www.immunize.org)

For a ready-to-copy 8½ x 11" version of this piece, visit [www.immunize.org/catg.d/4042hepc.pdf](http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/4042hepc.pdf).



## If you have hepatitis C, which vaccinations do you need?

The chart below shows which vaccinations you should have to protect your health. Make sure you and your healthcare provider keep your vaccinations up to date.

<b>Influenza</b>	<i>Probably.</i> You should receive one dose of the injectable influenza vaccine every year if you want to avoid getting sick with influenza.
<b>Pneumococcal</b>	<i>Yes!</i> This vaccine is specifically recommended for you if you have liver disease. If you haven't been vaccinated, you should get one dose now. If you've already been vaccinated and you were younger than age 65 when you got your shot, you should get another dose now, provided at least 5 years have passed since your first dose.
<b>Tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis (Td, Tdap)</b>	<i>Yes!</i> If you haven't had at least 3 tetanus-and-diphtheria-containing shots sometime in your life, you need to start or complete a 3-dose series now. Start with dose #1, followed by dose #2 in 1 month, and dose #3 in 6 months. You'll also need a Td booster dose every 10 years. If you're younger than 65 years, your next booster dose should also contain pertussis (whooping cough) vaccine—known as Tdap. Be sure to consult your healthcare provider any time you get a deep or dirty wound.
<b>Hepatitis A (Hep A)</b>	<i>Yes!</i> Chronic liver disease puts you at risk for serious complications if you get infected with the hepatitis A virus. If you've never been vaccinated against hepatitis A, you need 2 doses of this vaccine, spaced 6–18 months apart.
<b>Hepatitis B (Hep B)</b>	<i>Probably.</i> Most people with hepatitis C virus infection want to be protected against all forms of viral hepatitis to avoid liver disease complications. And if you have a risk factor for contracting hepatitis B, you should definitely be vaccinated. Discuss risk factors and vaccination with your healthcare provider. You need 3 doses of this vaccine. Start with dose #1 now, followed by dose #2 in 1 month, and dose #3 approximately 5 months later.
<b>Measles, mumps, rubella (MMR)</b>	<i>Maybe.</i> If you are an adult who was born in 1957 or later, you need at least 1 dose of MMR. Discuss your need for vaccination with your healthcare provider.
<b>Varicella (Chickenpox)</b>	<i>Maybe.</i> If you've never had the chickenpox disease, you should get vaccinated now (2 doses, 1–2 months apart).

**For more information about hepatitis C,** call the CDC-INFO Contact Center at (800) CDC-INFO (800) 232-4636, visit [www.cdc.gov/hepatitis](http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis), or go to [www.hepprograms.org](http://www.hepprograms.org) for a listing of hepatitis C organizations. You can also call the American Liver Foundation at (800) 465-4837 ([www.liverfoundation.org](http://www.liverfoundation.org)) or the Hepatitis Foundation International at (800) 891-4707 ([www.hfipf.org](http://www.hfipf.org)).

**Do you travel outside the United States?** If so, you may need additional vaccines. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) operates an international traveler's health information line. Call (877) 394-8347 or visit CDC's website at [www.cdc.gov/travel](http://www.cdc.gov/travel) for information about your destination. You may also consult a travel clinic or your healthcare professional.

[www.immunize.org/p4042hepc.pdf](http://www.immunize.org/p4042hepc.pdf) • Item #P4042 (2/06)  
 Immunization Action Coalition • 1573 Sibley Ave. • St. Paul, MN 55104 • (651) 647-9009 • [www.vaccineinformation.org](http://www.vaccineinformation.org) • [www.immunize.org](http://www.immunize.org)