

Background Information for Hepatitis B Vaccination Acceptance/Declination Statement for IBC Protocols

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requires that an employer make the hepatitis B vaccination series available, at no cost, to all employees who have occupational exposure to human blood or other potentially infectious materials. OSHA does not require that the hepatitis B vaccination series be made available to individuals who (1) have previously received the complete hepatitis B vaccination series; (2) are immune to hepatitis B as revealed through antibody testing; or (3) have a medical reason for which vaccination is contraindicated. *See OSHA regulation 29 CFR 1910.1030(f)(1)-(2).*

DePaul University extends these same benefits to students who may have exposure to human blood or other potentially infectious materials as part of participating in Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) approved protocols. However, the vaccination program for students would be handled by the IBC versus Environmental Health and Safety.

When DePaul faculty, staff, or students are working with any materials that may potentially contain the hepatitis B virus specifically for an IBC protocol, the IBC will request documentation of proof of vaccination or a signed declination of vaccination. If a vaccination is required, the employee or student's cost of receiving the vaccination series will be covered by the Office of Research Services (ORS), if the vaccination is related to the IBC protocol versus the persons daily work-related duties and responsibilities. The hepatitis B vaccinations are usually good for 35-30 years. If needed, ORS will also cover the cost of the hepatitis B booster vaccination.

At the time of initial review or during the review of amendments adding personnel, the IBC will verify the hepatitis B vaccination status of all individuals listed on a protocol and who are working directly with an agent that might contain blood borne pathogens when protocols involve using any of the following materials:

- Human blood, human blood components, and products made from human blood;
- Semen, vaginal secretions, cerebrospinal fluid, synovial fluid, pleural fluid, pericardial fluid, peritoneal fluid, amniotic fluid, saliva in dental procedures, any body fluid that is visibly contaminated with blood, and all body fluids in situations where it is difficult or impossible to differentiate between body fluids;
- Any unfixed tissue or organ (other than intact skin) from a human (living or dead); or
- HIV-containing cell or tissue cultures, organ cultures, and HIV- or HBV-containing culture medium or other solutions; and blood, organs, or other tissues from experimental animals infected with HIV or HBV.

Employees and students who have elected not to receive the hepatitis B vaccination series through DePaul and who work with materials indicated above for an IBC approved research protocol are required to complete and sign hepatitis B Vaccination Acceptance/Declination Statement. For persons working on the IBC protocol, one copy of the form should be sent to DePaul's Environmental Health and Safety Office, as indicated on the form, and one copy should

be submitted with the IBC protocol materials to the Office of Research services for the IBC protocol files.