

## Chronic Liver Disease <sup>A</sup>

| Recommended vaccines for those with chronic liver disease <sup>B</sup> |   |
|--|---|
| All routine vaccines   | Immunize according to routine schedule.   |
| Hepatitis A vaccine  | Provided free for individuals who are previously unimmunized and are anti-HAV IgG negative.   |
| Hepatitis B vaccine  | Provided free for individuals who do not have past or current evidence of hepatitis B infection. <sup>C, D</sup><br>Post-immunization serology for anti-HBs is recommended (provide 2 <sup>nd</sup> series if response is < 10 IU/L). |
| Pneumococcal vaccine   | Polysaccharide and/or conjugate vaccine depending on age.<br>Requires once only revaccination with polysaccharide vaccine.  |
| Influenza vaccine  | Immunize yearly (all those 6 months of age and older).  |

Chronic hepatitis C (HCV) infection develops in 70%-80% of those infected. Chronic HCV may progress to cirrhosis, end-stage liver disease, and hepatocellular carcinoma.

Individuals with chronic liver disease, including hepatitis C infection, may not be at increased risk of infection with hepatitis A or B viruses but are at increased risk for fulminant hepatitis A or more severe acute hepatitis B infection should infection occur.

Immunization should be done early in the course of disease as the immune response may be suboptimal in advanced liver disease.

Individuals with chronic liver disease (e.g., cirrhosis) and alcoholism are at increased risk of developing pneumococcal infection and severe pneumococcal disease and its complications. Individuals with chronic liver disease experience some degree of immunosuppression. They are at increased risk of influenza-related complications.

<sup>A</sup> Clients with chronic liver disease include those with chronic hepatitis B infection and those who are anti-HCV positive.

<sup>B</sup> For specific vaccine schedule information, refer to [Part 4 - Biological Products](#).

<sup>C</sup> Pre-vaccination testing for HBsAg, anti-HBc and anti-HBs is recommended to identify those already infected or immune.

<sup>D</sup> Standard hepatitis B vaccine dosing is recommended for those with chronic liver disease. Those with advanced liver disease (e.g., cirrhosis, physician-diagnosed advanced liver disease related to hepatitis C infection) who are non-responsive to the initial hepatitis B vaccine series (standard dosing), should be immunized as per the [Hepatitis B Vaccine Higher Dose Schedule](#) for the 2<sup>nd</sup> series.