

## 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	Immunize individuals who are previously unimmunized and are anti-HAV IgG negative.
Hepatitis B vaccine	Immunize individuals who do not have past or current evidence of hepatitis B infection. <sup>C, D</sup> Post-immunization serology for anti-HBs is recommended (provide 2 <sup>nd</sup> series if response is < 10 IU/L).
Influenza vaccine	Immunize yearly (all those 6 months of age and older).
Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine	Immunize according to age and pneumococcal vaccine history

Chronic hepatitis C (HCV) infection develops in approximately 75% 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 alcohol use disorder 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.

Zoster vaccine:

Inactivated zoster vaccine (Shingrix®) is recommended by the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) for those 50 years of age and older, and for individuals 18 years of age and older who are immunocompromised. Although this vaccine is not provided free in BC, it may be purchased without a prescription at most pharmacies and travel clinics. [First Nations Health Benefits](#) provides coverage for Shingrix® for First Nations Elders who are 60 years and older. For more information, see [Part 4 – Biological Products, Zoster Vaccine](#).

<sup>A</sup> Clients with chronic liver disease include those with cirrhosis, biliary atresia, 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.