

# MedStar Health, Inc.

## POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL

Policy Number: MP.028.MH  
Last Review Date: 05/10/2018  
Effective Date: 07/01/2018

### MP.028.MH – Hepatitis A Vaccine

This policy applies to the following lines of business:

- ✓ MedStar Employee (Select)
- ✓ MedStar CareFirst PPO

MedStar Health considers **Hepatitis A Vaccine** medically necessary for the following indications:

1. {Routine immunization of all children at age 1 year (i.e., 12 – 23 months) – 2 doses given 6 months apart. A recent review by an expert panel concluded that protective levels of antibody to Hepatitis A virus (HAV) could be present for at least 25 years in adults and at least 14–20 years in children.
2. Children older than 23 months may be vaccinated with the 2 doses, given 6 months apart, provided that they have not been vaccinated before.
3. The following adults or groups are recommended to receive the Hepatitis A vaccination:
  - Persons who have chronic liver disease
  - Persons who have clotting-factor disorders
  - Members who are exposed to an outbreak of Hepatitis A
  - Men who have sex with men
  - Users of illegal injection and non-injection drugs
  - Household members and other close personal contacts of adopted children newly arriving from countries with high or intermediate hepatitis A endemicity

### Limitations

1. Vaccine for travel or employment reasons is not covered.
2. This vaccine should be postponed in children who have a serious illness or infection. The vaccine may be given to a child who has a minor illness such as a common cold.
3. The safety of Hepatitis A vaccination during pregnancy has not been determined; however, because the vaccine is produced from inactivated HAV, the theoretical risk to the developing fetus is expected to be low. The risk associated with vaccination, however, should be weighed against the risk for Hepatitis A in women who might be at high risk for exposure to HAV.

### Background

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The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) defines Hepatitis A as an acute, usually self-limiting infection of the liver caused by hepatitis A virus (HAV). Worldwide, there are about 1.5 million cases each year. The disease burden due to hepatitis A in the United States has been estimated to be approximately 143,000 infections per year, of which 75,800 result in clinical hepatitis. The transmission of the virus occurs person-to-person primarily through the fecal-oral route, and is closely associated with poor sanitary conditions. The most common modes of transmission include close personal contact with an infected person and ingestion of contaminated food and water.

The average incubation period is 28 days, but may vary from 15–50 days. Approximately 10–12 days after infection the virus can be detected in blood and feces. In general, a person is most infectious from 14–21 days before the onset of symptoms, through 7 days after the onset of symptoms. Once a person has had Hepatitis A, they have lifetime immunity so vaccines are unnecessary for these individuals.

Several vaccines are available against Hepatitis A and are highly efficacious. Some of the currently available vaccines include:

- Havrix Pediatric Hepatitis A Vaccine
- VAQTA Hepatitis A pediatric vaccine
- Twinrix® Combined Hepatitis A and B vaccine for adults only.

### Codes:

CPT Codes / HCPCS Codes / ICD-10 Codes	
Code	Description
<b>CPT Codes</b>	
90460	Immunization administration through 18 years of age via any route of administration with counseling by physician or other qualified health care professional; first or only component of each vaccine or toxoid administered
90461	Immunization administration through 18 years of age via any route of administration with counseling by physician or other qualified health care professional; each additional vaccine or toxoid component administered (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
90471	Immunization administration (includes percutaneous, intradermal, subcutaneous, or intramuscular injections); 1 vaccine (single or combination vaccine/toxoid)
90472	Immunization administration (includes percutaneous, intradermal, subcutaneous, or intramuscular injections); each additional vaccine (single or

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	combination vaccine/toxoid) (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
90632	Hepatitis A Adult dosage for intramuscular (IM) use
90633	Hepatitis A Pediatric/Adolescent dosage, 2 dose schedule
90634	Hepatitis A Pediatric/Adolescent dosage, 3 dose schedule
90636	Hepatitis A & Hepatitis B vaccine (HepA-HepB) adult dosage for IM use

### References

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). 2015 Immunization Schedules for Children 0 through 18 Years of Age. ACIP Work Group Presentation: October 29, 2014. <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/acip/meetings/downloads/slides-2014-10/child-imm-Romero.pdf>
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). 2015 Adult Immunization Schedule. ACIP Adult Immunization Work Group Presentation: October 29, 2014. <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/acip/meetings/downloads/slides-2014-10/adult-imm-Riley.pdf>
3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): Recommended Adult Immunization Schedule, United States - 2015. <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/downloads/adult/adult-schedule.pdf>
4. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Hepatitis A FAQ's for Health Professionals. Updated: July 13, 2016. <http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/HAV/HAVfaq.htm#general>
5. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Immunizations. Page last modified: 03/31/2017. <https://www.cms.gov/Immunizations/>
6. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Local Coverage Determination (LCD) Immunizations L34596. Revised effective date 05/01/2018. <https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/lcd-details.aspx?LCDId=34596&ver=41&Date=&DocID=L34596&bc=iAAAABABAAA A&>
7. Feinstone SM, Gust ID. Hepatitis A Vaccine. In: Plotkin SA, Orenstein WA, eds. *Vaccines* (3rd ed.). Philadelphia: WB Saunders Company; 1999. pp. 650–671.
8. Hayes Medical Technology Directory. Hepatitis A Vaccine. Annual Review June 20, 2001.
9. Innis BL, Snitbhan R, Kunasol P, et al. Protection against hepatitis A by an inactivated vaccine. *JAMA*. 1994, 271(17):28–34. <http://jama.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=371192>

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10. Public health control of hepatitis A: Memorandum from a WHO meeting. Bull World Health Organ. 1995, 73:15–20.  
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2486586/>
11. Werzberger A, Mensch B, Kuter B, et al. A controlled trial of a formalin-inactivated hepatitis A vaccine in healthy children. N Engl J Med, 1992, 327(7):453–457. <http://www.nejm.org/doi/pdf/10.1056/NEJM199208133270702>

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