

Dear Medical Practitioner

NSW Health Hepatitis B Vaccination Schedules Acceptable for Student Placements

Thank you for assisting our UOW student to meet the NSW Health Student compliance requirements for immunisation and vaccination. The NSW Ministry of Health require that all health discipline students be immunisation compliant before they attend clinical placement as part of their course.

Delays in students meeting these requirements can impact their course progress.

Hepatitis B vaccination evidence is one component. Students that do not have evidence of age-appropriate vaccinations must either complete a statutory declaration detailing their doses OR receive the adult schedule as detailed in the Australian Immunisation Handbook.

The NSW Ministry of Health recommends the “**alternate**” schedule, as listed in the Immunisation Handbook. This will ensure timely vaccination and avoid delays. The two recommended options are summarised below.

Options	Day Zero / Month 0	Day 28 / Month 1	Day 56 / Month 2	Day 84 / Month 3	Day 112 / Month 4	Day 140 / Month 5
Option 1	Dose 1	Dose 2			Dose 3	Serology
Option 2	Dose 1		Dose 2		Dose 3	Serology

*NB: The NSW Ministry of Health **will not** accept accelerated doses*

Non-responders and Persistent non-responders

If a student has not responded to their age-appropriate vaccinations, and are not infected with Hepatitis B, they should receive further booster doses. The Australian Immunisation Handbook recommends the following:

- A single booster dose, with serology repeated no earlier than 28 days after this dose.
- If immunity is confirmed, no further doses are required.
- If immunity is not confirmed, they are recommended to receive two more doses one month apart.
- Re-test for anti-HBs levels at least four weeks after the last dose.
- If immunity is confirmed, no further doses are required. Students must provide evidence of all doses and their most recent serology report indicating immunity.
- If immunity is not confirmed, students must provide evidence of all doses and all serology reports indicating that they remain a non-responder.

The ISLHD team will then provide the student further information regarding risks and consequences of hepatitis B infection and implement measures to assist with management. This outcome will not impact the student’s ability to participate in health-related placements.

Should you have questions or require further information please contact the UOW Compliance and Verification team on 02 4239 3555 or via uow-verification@uow.edu.au. If required, we can arrange for an ISLHD Student Compliance representative to contact you.

References:

The Australian Immunisation Handbook: <https://immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au/contents/vaccine-preventable-diseases/hepatitis-b#vaccines-dosage-and-administration>

NSW Health policy directive “Occupational Assessment, Screening and Vaccination Against Specified Infectious Diseases”: https://www1.health.nsw.gov.au/pds/Pages/doc.aspx?dn=PD2024_015