

INSTRUCTIONS-LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF ONLY

Use the approved language in this standing order to create a customized standing order to be used exclusively by your agency. A customized standing order is usually printed on your agency's letterhead and signed by your medical director with effective start and end dates.

Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) for Hepatitis A Virus (HAV) Infection

Standing Order: All registered nurses and licensed practical nurses employed or contracted by [name of local health department] may administer post-exposure prophylaxis as outlined below to contacts of persons diagnosed with laboratory-confirmed hepatitis A infection.

Assessment:

1. Subjective Findings:

Suspected contact to laboratory-confirmed HAV case presenting to health department requesting evaluation for PEP

2. Objective Findings: Provide PEP to the following contacts of persons diagnosed with laboratory-confirmed HAV infection:

- Previously unvaccinated household contacts
- Previously unvaccinated sexual contacts
- Contacts who have shared illegal drugs and drug paraphernalia
- Ongoing, close personal contacts
- Previously unvaccinated staff and attendees of regulated child care facilities if
 - one or more cases of HAV are recognized in children or employees
 - cases are recognized in two or more households of child care attendees
- In regulated child care facilities that do not provide care to children who wear diapers, PEP should only be administered to classroom contacts of an infected patient
- Co-workers of an infected food handler (if the co-workers are also food handlers)
- Patrons of an eating establishment if, during the time the affected food handler was likely to be infectious, the food handler
 - was involved in the preparation and handling of foods
 - had noticeable deficiencies in personal hygiene
 - had diarrhea
 - prepared beverages with or without ice
 - handled dishes after washing and sanitizing

Plan of Care:

1. Implementation:

- Administer 0.5 mL hepatitis A vaccine to healthy persons aged 12 months to 18 years of age
- Administer 1.0 mL hepatitis A vaccine to healthy persons aged 19 years or older
- Administer Immune Globulin (IG), 0.02 mL/kg to
 1. Persons over 40 years of age
 2. Persons under 12 months of age
 3. Persons who are immunocompromised
 4. Persons who have been diagnosed with chronic liver disease
 5. Persons for whom vaccine is contraindicated
- Administer IG and hepatitis A vaccine simultaneously to contacts who have shared illicit drugs

2. Nursing Action:

- PEP should be administered within 2 weeks of the most recent exposure to a person with laboratory confirmed hepatitis A virus infection.
- Serologic testing of contacts is not recommended due to cost and potential for delay in administering PEP.
- Contact the epidemiologist on-call at the Communicable Disease Branch to confer and verify that the case is laboratory confirmed and to determine which contacts need PEP.

- Administer vaccine intramuscularly in the deltoid muscle using a 22-25 g, 1-1 ½ “ needle.
- Administer IG deep into large muscle mass. No more than 5 mL should be administered in one site in an adult or large child. Lesser amounts (maximum 3 mL in one site) should be given to small children and infants.
- Teach contacts re: the importance of personal hygiene and proper handwashing.
- Document use of state-supplied hepatitis A vaccine in the N.C. Immunization Registry.
 - Record the date the vaccine was administered, the manufacturer and lot number, the vaccination site and route, and the name and title of the person administering the vaccine.
- Document administration of PEP to identified contacts in the N.C. Electronic Disease Surveillance System (NC EDSS).

3. Criteria for Notifying Physician:

- Contact [name of local health department] medical director if there is any question about whether to carry out any treatment or other provision of this order.

4. Follow-up Requirements:

- Report any adverse reactions to hepatitis A vaccine to the federal Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS)

Approved by: _____ Date Signed _____
 Local Health Department Medical Director

Effective Date: _____
 Expiration Date: _____

Legal Authority: Nurse Practice Act, G.S. 90-171.20(7)(f)&(8)(c)

References:

APHA Control of Communicable Diseases Manual, 19th ed., pp 278 - 284.

Red Book, 2009 Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases, 28th ed., pp.329-337.

NC Division of Public Health Communicable Disease Manual,
<http://www.epi.state.nc.us/epi/gcdc/manual/toc.html>

“Updated Recommendations for the Prevention of Hepatitis A After Exposure, and Availability of State-Supplied Hepatitis A Vaccine for Post-Exposure Prophylaxis,” memorandum from the NC Immunization Branch, dated December 3, 2007.