

Twinrix®

Twinrix® is a combination vaccine that prevents both hepatitis A and B in adults over 18 years of age. Vaccination requires a 3-shot series over a 6-month period. In some circumstances, an accelerated dosing schedule of 0, 7, and 21-30 days, followed by a booster at 12 months, can be used and is believed to have similar efficacy as the traditional schedule. After completion of the vaccination series, more than 98 percent of people develop antibodies against hepatitis A and B. The most common side effects of the vaccine include soreness at the vaccination site, headache and fatigue. These effects are mild, do not require treatment, and do not last more than 48 hours.

Twinrix® should be offered to any person 18 years of age or older who is at risk of exposure to hepatitis A and/or B. Risk factors include unprotected sex (heterosexual and homosexual), current and past injection drug use, history of incarceration, HIV+ status, HCV+ status, history of STDs, etc.

The State currently provides Twinrix® at no charge to local health departments for the vaccination of high-risk adults. For more information, please contact the N.C. Immunization Branch at 919-707-5550 or 919-707-5575.

See the [April 22, 2009 memorandum](#) from Beth Rowe-West of the Immunization Branch regarding the use of Twinrix®:

“...Due to numerous questions about changes made to eligibility requirements for hepatitis A/hepatitis B combination vaccine, we would like to clarify that state-supplied hep A/hep B combination vaccine, Twinrix®, may not be used for the accelerated, four dose series or for persons with documented history of a completed hepatitis A or B series. This change was made in March 2008. ...”