



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, U. S. ARMY EUROPE REGIONAL MEDICAL COMMAND
CMR 442
APO AE 09042

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

MCEU-FHP

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: ERM Command Policy Letter 41, Use of Twinrix Combination Hepatitis A and B vaccination within USAREUR

1. References:

a. ASECDEF Memorandum – Vaccination of New Recruits Against Hepatitis B, 29 April 2002.

b. DA OTSG Memorandum - Vaccination of New Recruits Against Hepatitis B Virus, 07 August 2002.

c. MEDCOM Memorandum - Vaccination of New Recruits Against Hepatitis B Virus, 07 August 2002.

d. Army Regulation 40-562, Immunizations and Chemoprophylaxis, 01 November 1995.

e. Micromedex drug information website:

https://mdx.lrmc.amedd.army.mil/mdxcgi/htmldisp.exe?CTL=c:\mdx\mdxcgi\MEGAT.SYS&SET=1C3A13D4E91A6900&SYS=28&T=537&D=1&O=0#M_Cons

2. IAW references a through d above, newly accessed recruits are required to receive the Hepatitis B immunization upon initial entry to Basic Combat Training (BCT). Depending upon the length and duration of their Advanced Individual Training course, they may arrive to their first duty station in USAREUR prior to the completion of the Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B series. The following guidance is set forth to correctly complete the administration of the vaccination series. IAW reference c., there is no present directive or requirement to “catch up” the total force accessed prior to 01 Sep 02 against Hepatitis B virus.

3. IAW reference e., Twinrix is a recombinant vaccine for Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B that is being widely used at the CONUS based BCT stations. The dosage route is IM to the deltoid, using 1 mL for a total of three doses on a 0-, 1- and 6-month schedule. Soldiers that have been started on this vaccine should continue until the series of three doses is complete. Twinrix is available at the three ERM Medical Treatment Facilities using NSN F58160-0850-46, Nomenclature - Twinrix Tiplock Syringe 5S, U/I PG.

4. Soldiers arriving to USAREUR who have started the Hepatitis A/B series with Twinrix, will complete the series using the prescribed dose, route and schedule as indicated above and in the accompanying chart. The documentation of this vaccination in MEDPROS will be done using the

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vaccine code: HAB (code 104 for RIDES applications). Under no circumstances will Twinrix be entered into MEDPROS using separate Hepatitis A and B codes.

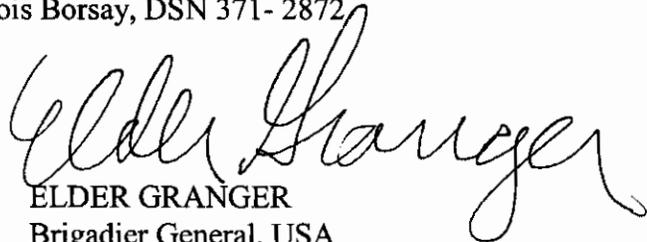
5. Soldiers who present with a history of receiving separate Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B series as their last vaccines (documented as MEDPROS code HPA and HB3, respectively), will continue through to series completion using separate Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B vaccine administrations and should not be converted to the Twinrix vaccine.

6. Soldiers who have completed the Hepatitis A series (part of the MEDPROS Routine Adult profile of required immunizations for this AOR) and are subsequently required to receive the Hepatitis B series for deployment purposes, will be started using the separate Hepatitis B dose schedule (0-, 1-, and 6- months). They should not be placed on the Twinrix vaccine.

7. In the event a Soldier is administered a combination of Twinrix and separate Hepatitis A & B vaccines, the guidance is to count all shots, and never start the series over.

8. Clinical areas normally administering immunizations should begin stocking Twinrix immediately, in order to continue Soldiers already on this series.

9. POC is ERM Command Operations, LTC Lois Borsay, DSN 371- 2872



ELDER GRANGER
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding

Distribution

A

FDA Approved Dosing Schedule

Dose 1	Dose 2	Dose 3
Twinrix	Adult HA* Adult HB	Adult HB**
Twinrix	Twinrix	Adult HA Adult HB
Adult HA Adult HB	Twinrix*	Adult HB**
Adult HA Adult HB	Adult HA Adult HB	Adult HB**

* Separated from prior HA dose by ≥ 6 months

** May use Twinrix for this dose

Recommended dosages and schedules of hepatitis A vaccines

Vaccine	Age group	Dose	Volume	# Doses	Schedule
Havrix (Glaxo-SmithKline)	2-18 years	720 EI.U.*	0.5 ml	2	0, 6-12 mos.
	19 years and older	1440 EI.U.*	1.0 ml	2	0, 6-12 mos.
Vaqta (Merck & Co.)	2-18 years	25 U**	0.5 ml	2	0, 6-18 mos.
	19 years and older	50 U**	1.0 ml	2	0, 6-12 mos.

*EI.U. = Elisa Units **U = Units

Recommended dosages and schedules of hepatitis B vaccines

Vaccine	Age group	Dose	Volume	# Doses	Schedule*
Engerix-B (Glaxo-SmithKline)	0-19 years	10µg	0.5 ml	3	Infants: birth, 1-4, 6-18 mos. of age Alternative for older children: 0, 1-2, 4 mos.
	20 years & older	20µg	1.0 ml	3	0, 1, 6 mos.
Recombinax HB (Merck & Co.)	0-19 years	5µg	0.5 ml	3	Infants: birth, 1-4, 6-18 mos. of age Alternative for older children: 0, 1-2, 4 mos.
	11 thru 15 yrs.	10µg	1.0 ml	2	0, 4-6 mos.
	20 years & older	10µg	1.0 ml	3	0, 1, 6 mos.

* The schedule for hepatitis B vaccination is flexible and varies. Consult the ACIP statement on hepatitis B (11/91), AAP's 2000 Red Book, or the package insert for details.

Note: For adult dialysis patients, the Engerix-B dose required is 40µg/2.0ml (use the adult 20µg/ml formulation) on a schedule of 0, 1, 2, and 6 months. For Recombinax HB, a special formulation for dialysis patients is available. The dose is 40µg/1.0ml and it is given on a schedule of 0, 1, and 6 months.

Combinations using hepatitis A and/or hepatitis B vaccines

Vaccine	Age group	Antigens used	Volume	# Doses	Schedule
Comvax* (Merck & Co.)	6 weeks thru 4 yrs.	Recombinax HB (5µg) combined with PedvaxHib	0.5 ml	3	2, 4, 12-15 mos. of age
Pediarix* (Glaxo-SmithKline)	6 weeks thru 6 yrs.	Engerix-B(10Fg), Infanrix (DTaP), and IPV	0.5 ml	3	2, 4, 6 mos. of age
Twinrix* (Glaxo-SmithKline)	18 years & older	Havrix (720 EI.U.) combined with Engerix-B (20µg)	1.0 ml	3	0, 1, 6 mos.

* Licensed combination vaccines may be used whenever any component of the combination is indicated and its other component(s) is/are not contraindicated. (CDC. Recommended Childhood Immunization Schedule—United States. *MMWR* 2003; [52] 2) The use of licensed combination vaccines is preferred over separate injection of their equivalent component vaccines. ("Combination Vaccines for Childhood Immunization," *MMWR*, 1999; [RR-5] 2)