

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Your son/daughter has elected to enroll in an educational program where related experiences will involve working on patients in the Middle Bucks Dental Clinic, clinical observation and instruction in a variety of settings.

Since health care facilities are required to notify their employees of any risks involved, we feel it is important to offer parents/students the same information.

Please be advised that the Middle Bucks Institute of Technology will use extreme precaution to insure the safety and wellbeing of all students regarding suspected health risks; however, you must read the attached statement found on the attached about Hepatitis B and the Hepatitis B vaccine and sign below where appropriate.

Consent and Authorization

I have hereby read the attached statement regarding the Hepatitis B and the Hepatitis B vaccine and do hereby agree:

To have my child \_\_\_\_\_ (*print child's name*) immunized by my physician prior to the first day of school and to bear any costs necessary in order to acquire said vaccine for my child.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Parent or Guardian*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Print Name*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Relationship to Student*

Decline Vaccination

I have hereby read the attached statement regarding the Hepatitis B and the Hepatitis B vaccine and do hereby decline:

This vaccine for my child \_\_\_\_\_ (*print child's name*) at this time due to his/her prior immunization

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Parent or Guardian*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Print Name*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Relationship to Student*

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MIDDLE BUCKS

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## **Hepatitis B Vaccination** **Recombivax HB**

### **Introduction**

Hepatitis is a viral infection caused by Hepatitis B virus (HBV). Approximately 200,000 persons are infected each year in the United States. A small percentage of these infected persons may become chronic carriers of Hepatitis B virus or develop chronic active hepatitis and/or cirrhosis. There may also be an association between the HBV carrier state and the occurrence of liver cancer.

### **The Vaccine and Treatment:**

The safety and efficacy of the Hepatitis B vaccine have been extensively tested. Recombivax HB is a noninfectious subunit viral vaccine derived from Hepatitis B surface antigen (HbsAG) produced in yeast cells. The Hepatitis B vaccine is prepared from recombinant yeast cultures and is free of association with human blood or blood products. The treatment required a series of three vaccinations over a six-month period. Studies have shown that more than 90% of healthy adults develop protection against Hepatitis B after a series of three intra-muscular doses of Hepatitis B vaccine given in the deltoid muscle over a six-month period. Studies have shown that protection against the Hepatitis B is significant for persons who develop antibodies after vaccination but before exposure; however, the duration of the protection and the subsequent need for booster doses has not yet been determined.

### **Risks of the Vaccine:**

There is no evidence that the Hepatitis B vaccine has ever caused Hepatitis B, but persons who have been infected with HBV prior to immunization may develop clinical hepatitis despite vaccination. The most common side effects of the Hepatitis B vaccination are soreness and redness at the injection site for about 48 hours. Low-grade fever (less than 101 degrees Fahrenheit) occurs in some patients for 48 hours. Complaints of malaise, fatigue, and joint pain are infrequent and usually last for only a few days. A rash has been reported, though there is a risk of an allergic reaction to the Hepatitis B vaccination. In a small number of patients, neurological reactions, including the Guillian-Barre syndrome, have occurred following the Hepatitis B vaccination. The rate of occurrence of Guillian-Barre syndrome is not thought to be significantly increased above that observed in normal adults. These reactions are not thought to be related to the Hepatitis B vaccine.

### ***HEPATITIS B VACCINE SHOULD NOT BE ADMINISTERED TO INDIVIDUALS WITH HYPERSENSITIVITY TO VACCINE COMPONENTS OR TO YEAST***

Hepatitis B vaccine would not be expected to be harmful to a developing fetus; however, its safety for the fetus has not been demonstrated. Accordingly, Hepatitis B vaccine should not be given to pregnant women and nursing mothers unless it is strongly indicated.

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