



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS OF MEDICAL UNIVERSITY - VARNA

### IMMUNIZATION AGAINST HEPATITIS B VIRUS

Dear Students,

In accordance with the health legislation of the Republic of Bulgaria, immunization with a vaccine against hepatitis B virus (HBV) has become mandatory for all newborns since 1992. In addition, **all health professionals**, working at high risk of exposure to biological agents, including blood transmitted viruses - hepatitis B virus, need to be given the required specific immunoprophylaxis.

The specific immunoprophylaxis against HBV can be carried out with two types of bioproducts:

- Engerix B Mono -Vaccine product - Hepatitis B Recombinant Vaccine;
- Twinrix Bivalent Vaccine - an inactivated vaccine against HBV and HAV (hepatitis A virus)

Engerix B is recommended for initial, mandatory immunization of newborns, re-immunization of risk groups with an insufficient protective antibody titer and non-immunized adults.

Twinrix is recommended for persons born before 1992, who haven't been mandatory immunized.

Immunization and re-immunization against HBV shall be preceded by HbsAg test. **Only persons with / - / HBsAg shall be subject to immunoprophylaxis!**

#### **Immunization Schedule for Non-Immunized Persons with Engerix-B:**

- 1st dose - randomly chosen day;
- 2nd dose - after 1 month;
- 3rd dose - six months after the first dose.

#### **Re-immunization with Engerix B:**

Re-immunization shall be carried out after prior laboratory testing of post-infectious/post-vaccination immunity - titer of anti-HBs (titer below 10 mIU/ml).

Re-immunization is carried out with one dose of Engerix B, which shall be followed by a test of the titer of specific antibodies after a month.

In case of a negative titer, a new full immunization cycle with 3 doses of vaccine and a new immunity test shall be carried out.

**Immunization Schedule for Non-Immunized Persons with Twinrix:**

- 1st dose - randomly chosen day;
- 2nd dose - after 1 month;
- 3rd dose - six months after the first dose.

**An Accelerated Immunization Schedule with Twinrix for Travellers/Students:**

- 1st dose - randomly chosen day;
- 2nd dose - after 7 days;
- 3rd dose - 21 days after the first dose;
- 4th dose - 1 year after the first dose.

**Twinrix is recommended for:**

- Non-immunized persons and persons who have not been affected by HBV and HAV;
- Working age people - 25-40 years of age;
- Travellers and students abroad;
- Persons who have been in contact with people infected with viral hepatitis;
- Immunocompromised persons.

Both vaccines are available in the pharmacies, at an approximate price per 1 dose:

- Engerix B – 25-35 lev
- Twinrix – 50-60 lev

The immunization can be carried out in the Immunization Room of Regional Health Inspectorate - Varna (3 Bregalnitca Srt.), payment required as follows:  
1st dose - 7 lev, second dose - 2 lev, 3rd dose - 2 lev.