

## Changes to the selective neonatal hepatitis B programme

The routine childhood immunisation schedule in Wales is changing in 2025 and 2026. These changes affect the selective neonatal vaccination programme for babies born to mothers with hepatitis B (HepB). For more information, go to:

[phw.nhs.wales/vaccines/ccs-information-for-health-professionals](https://phw.nhs.wales/vaccines/ccs-information-for-health-professionals)

### How do the changes to the childhood immunisation schedule affect the selective neonatal HepB programme?

#### 1. From 1 July 2025:

- Menitorix® (Hib/MenC) will no longer be given at 12 months.
- Eligible babies turning 12 months of age on or after 1 July 2025 **should not be offered monovalent HepB vaccine** when they attend for their 12-month vaccination appointment (see below from 1 January 2026).

#### 2. From 1 January 2026:

- For babies turning 12 months of age on or after 1 July 2025, an **additional dose of the hexavalent DTaP/IPV/Hib/HepB (6-in-1) vaccine** will be given at a **new 18-month appointment**.
- With this additional 6-in-1 vaccine at 18-months, the **12-month monovalent HepB dose will no longer be required**.
- HepB surface antigen (HBsAg) testing can take place at any time between 12 and 18 months. For example, at an opportunistic healthcare attendance or at a routine appointment. The requirement to record the results of the baby's blood test for HepB surface antigen in their primary care record remains unchanged.
- The appointment for the 18-month 6-in-1 vaccine dose provides an opportunity to confirm that a blood sample for HepB surface antigen (HBsAg) has been collected and the result reviewed. If it has not, arrangements should be made to obtain it.

#### Table to show selective neonatal hepatitis B eligibility.

Selective neonatal HepB programme for Wales from July 2025: Age	Eligible babies turning 12 months of age on or before 30 June 2025 (DOB on or before 30.06.2024)	Eligible babies turning 12 months of age on or after 1 July 2025 (DOB on or after 01.07.2024)
Birth	✓ Monovalent HepB	✓ Monovalent HepB
4 weeks	✓ Monovalent HepB	✓ Monovalent HepB
8 weeks	✓ 6-in-1	✓ 6-in-1
12 weeks	✓ 6-in-1	✓ 6-in-1
16 weeks	✓ 6-in-1	✓ 6-in-1
12 months	✓ Monovalent HepB ✓ Test for HBsAg	X No monovalent HepB ✓ Test for HBsAg to take place anytime between 12 and 18 months
New - 18 months	X	✓ 6-in-1

For more information about the changes to the selective neonatal HepB programme, go to:

<https://phw.nhs.wales/topics/immunisation-and-vaccines/vaccines-professionals/hepatitis-b-hepb/>

[Green Book on Immunisation Chapter 18 Hepatitis B](#) (external site)

## Surveillance

Approximately 20 – 30 babies have been born to hepatitis B positive mothers in Wales each year, for the last several years.

For babies born to hepatitis B positive mothers in 2023, uptake of the:

- **1<sup>st</sup> dose** of hepatitis B immunisation at birth was **96%** in 2023, with **100%** of the neonates receiving their first dose on time (on their day of birth or the next day).
- **2<sup>nd</sup> dose** of hepatitis B immunisation at 4 weeks was **96%** in 2023, with **67%** of the babies receiving their second dose between 25 and 36 days after their first dose.
- **3<sup>rd</sup> dose** of hepatitis B immunisation at 8 weeks was **96%**, with **59%** of the babies receiving their third dose between 25 and 36 days after their second dose.

For babies born to hepatitis B positive mothers in 2022:

- Uptake of the **4<sup>th</sup> dose** of hepatitis B immunisation due at 12 months was **88%**. **48%** of the babies received their 4<sup>th</sup> dose between 334 and 396 days of birth.
- **58%** were serologically **tested** for hepatitis B surface antigen by 18 months of age. None of the babies tested were found to have acquired hepatitis B infection.

The report can be accessed at: [Neonatal Hepatitis B Immunisation - Public Health Wales](#)

To read the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) statement on changes to the childhood immunisation schedule (November 2022), see:

[Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation \(JCVI\) statement on changes to the childhood immunisation schedule - GOV.UK](#) (external site)

To read the Welsh Health Circular – Changes to the routine childhood vaccination schedule and to the selective hepatitis B vaccination programme from 1 July 2025 (WHC/2025/019), see:

[Changes to routine childhood and selective neonatal hepatitis B vaccinations \(WHC/2025/019\) | GOV.WALES](#) (external site)



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