

WHEELING JESUIT UNIVERSITY

Hepatitis B Vaccine Waiver Form

Hepatitis B is a serious disease caused by the hepatitis B virus (HBV) that attacks the liver and can be spread to others. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends that workers who perform tasks that involve exposure to blood or blood-contaminated body fluids should be vaccinated. Consequently, the majority of health care agencies require all workers who may be at risk to be vaccinated. In addition, health care agencies used as clinical practice sites require Hepatitis B immunity for all health science students. If you have not received the recombinant hepatitis B vaccine and are a health science student, your placement for clinical practice could be affected.

What is hepatitis B?

Hepatitis B is a contagious liver disease that results from infection with the hepatitis B virus and means inflammation of the liver. It can range in severity from a mild illness lasting a few weeks to a serious, lifelong illness. Hepatitis B is usually spread when blood, semen, or another body fluid from a person infected with the hepatitis B virus enters the body of someone who is not infected. This can happen through sexual contact with an infected person or sharing needles, syringes, or other drug-injection equipment. Hepatitis B can also be passed from an infected mother to her baby at birth.

Hepatitis B can be either acute or chronic. Acute hepatitis B virus infection is a short-term illness that occurs within the first 6 months after someone is exposed to the hepatitis B virus. Acute infection can — but does not always — lead to chronic infection. Chronic hepatitis B virus infection is a long-term illness that occurs when the hepatitis B virus remains in a person's body. Chronic hepatitis B is a serious disease that can result in long-term health problems, and even death.

The best way to prevent hepatitis B is by getting vaccinated. This information has been taken from the Center for Disease Control website. We encourage students to visit www.cdc.gov to receive more information about hepatitis B before signing this waiver.

STUDENT RELEASE UPON REFUSAL OF IMMUNIZATION AGAINST HEPATITIS B

I understand that it is recommended that all university students who do not have evidence of immunity to Hepatitis B virus receive the Hepatitis B vaccine. The recombinant B vaccine is a genetically engineered vaccine derived from the hepatitis B surface antigen produced in yeast cells (common baker's yeast). I understand that if I have an allergy or sensitivity to yeast, I should not receive the vaccine. I understand that by declining this vaccine, I continue to be at risk of acquiring hepatitis B, a serious disease. I, also, understand that the majority of clinical placement sites are requiring evidence of Hepatitis B virus immunity before accepting health science students for clinical practice and I acknowledge that, if I do not have evidence of HBV immunity, my placement for clinical practice may be affected (if applicable).

Despite the risks described above, I request that my refusal be honored, and I hereby release Wheeling Jesuit University, its officers, trustees, employees and agents as well as any clinical agency in which I practice due to any student role from any and all liability that may arise directly or indirectly as a result of my refusal of the Hepatitis B vaccine.

I, (PLEASE PRINT NAME) _____, refuse or am in the process of completing the series of Hepatitis B vaccinations. I understand the risks as stated above apply until the series is completed.

Signature of student: (Signature of parent/guardian is required if student is under age 18.) _____ Date: _____

Students choosing a health professions major must complete the Hepatitis B series.