Vaccinations and Transplantation – Information for Transplant Recipients

Why are vaccinations important?

After your transplant, you will be on medications that suppress your immune system. You are at a higher risk for infections and will benefit from immunization.

Patients are encouraged to get the necessary vaccinations while waiting for transplant. This is important as not all vaccinations are safe to be given after transplant.

Tips about vaccinations

✓ Some vaccines are not required after transplant if you have been vaccinated before your transplant. When sorting out which vaccinations are needed, it is helpful to know which ones you've had – Bring your vaccination records with you to Clinic.

✓ If you have had your spleen removed, check with your doctor about your vaccinations.

✓ The flu shot is recommended for transplant patients. If you receive your transplant during flu season, wait 1 month after your transplant before having the flu shot.

✓ Wait 3-6 months after your transplant for all other vaccinations.

✓ All vaccines are covered by OHIP with the exception of SHINGRIX and HPV. These may be covered by some private insurance plans.

✓ Transplant patients should **NOT** receive live vaccines.

Which vaccinations should I take and when?

Infection	Recommended Vaccine	Cautions
Influenza (the flu)	**Get the flu shot!** High dose (one-time dose) OR Regular dose (need 2 doses, 1 month apart)	Do **NOT** use live inhaled flu vaccine.
Pneumonia	There are <u>two</u> pneumococcal vaccines recommended – you should receive <u>both</u>. 1. **Prevnar® 13** (conjugate vaccine) 2. **pneumovax® 23** These vaccines should be given 8 weeks apart.	This vaccine is not required again if you vaccinated before transplant.
Shingles	**SHINGRIX** – 2 doses, 2 months apart You can still get the SHINGRIX vaccine 6 months after you have had Shingles. Do **NOT** use Zostavax – this is a live vaccine.	This vaccine is not required again if you vaccinated before transplant. SHINGRIX is not covered by OHIP but may be covered by some private insurance plans.
Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis	**Tdap Vaccine** – required every 10 years There are 2 different Tdap vaccines – either is okay based on your age. Boostrix for people age 10 years and older Adacel for people age 10-64	

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Meningitis	There are different types of meningitis and therefore different vaccines. We recommend getting **Menactra** which covers the most common types of meningococcal groups (A,C,Y,W). **Bexsero®** covers meningococcal group B. Men-C (**Menjugate)** vaccine only covers group C (given to those who have had a splenectomy).	It is important to know which type of vaccine you have had – please check with your family doctor.
Haemophilus Iinfluenza B	**Haemophilus influenzae B vaccine** (Hib vaccine) should be given after transplant	
Hepatitis B	**Hepatitis B vaccine** Being vaccinated to Hepatitis B does not mean that you are immune – it may take several boosters. After transplant it may be more difficult to achieve immunity. Your Transplant Team will have checked your immunity level using a blood test. If you are not immune, it is recommended that you get a booster or complete the 3-dose series. Immunity needs to be retested after vaccination.	
Hepatitis A	If you are planning to travel to a country where Hepatitis A is common, you should be vaccinated. This needs to be done well in advance of your travel. Check with the Transplant Team at least 2 months prior to departure. You will need 2 doses of the vaccine. The last dose needs to be at least 2 weeks before departure.	
Human papillomavirus (HPV)	**4-Valent HPV vaccine** (4vHPV) is recommended for anyone less than 45 years old.	4vHPV is not covered by OHIP but may be covered by some private insurance plans.
Measles	**Do NOT vaccinate for measles after transplant – MMR vaccine is live vaccine.** Protection against measles is usually checked before transplant and MMR vaccine maybe given then if your transplant doctor approves.	