

Kidney disease and immunisation

Patients with kidney disease are more prone to some sorts of infection. Immunisation is recommended against some infections in patients at increased risk. With your current kidney damage we suggest that you have the following immunisations:

Flu

You should go to your GP every autumn for the flu immunisation.

Pneumovax

Kidney patients are at increased risk of certain sorts of pneumonia. This immunisation should only be needed once.

Hepatitis B

Kidney patients may need dialysis at some point in the future, where contact with blood and machines may carry a small risk of infection. This vaccine is less likely to work in advanced kidney disease. The government recommendation is, therefore, that kidney patients should be immunised against hepatitis B as early as possible, if there is the slightest chance they may eventually need dialysis.

This is a course of four injections with a blood test at the end to confirm immunity. Some patients will need a booster dose and a few patients will fail to become immune even after these doses.

You will probably need a booster every five years.

How do I arrange the immunisations?

You will be given a card to take to the nurse at your GP surgery. She/he will be able to give you the injections and record the dates on the card.

It is important that you take the blood form and have a blood test done four weeks after your last injection. This will tell us whether you have become immune or need a booster dose.

It will be helpful to bring this card with you to the clinic.

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