

HEPATITIS B VACCINE WAIVER

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I have reviewed information on the risk associated with hepatitis B disease, availability and effectiveness of any vaccine against hepatitis B disease and I choose not to be vaccinated against hepatitis B disease, or I will obtain the vaccine at a later date.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Print Name _____ Student ID# _____

As the parent/guardian, I choose not to have my minor son/daughter vaccinated against hepatitis B.

Signature of Parent or Guardian _____ Date _____

Hepatitis B

Hepatitis B is a potentially fatal disease that attacks the liver. The virus can cause short-term (acute) illness that leads to loss of appetite, tiredness, diarrhea and vomiting, jaundice (yellow skin or eyes) and pain in muscles, joints and stomach. Many people have no symptoms with the illness. It can also cause long-term (chronic) illness that leads to liver damage, liver cancer, and death.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, about 1.25 million people in the U.S. have chronic Hepatitis B infection. Each year it is estimated that 80,000 people, mostly young adults, get infected with Hepatitis B virus. Young adults are more likely to contract Hepatitis B infection due to greater likelihood of high-risk behavior such as multiple sexual partners. More than 11,000 people have to stay in the hospital and 4,000-5,000 people die from chronic Hepatitis B. Hepatitis B virus is spread through contact with the blood and body fluids of an infected person or sharing needles when injecting illegal drugs.

There are several ways to prevent Hepatitis B infections including avoiding risky behavior, screening pregnant women and vaccination. Vaccine is the best prevention. The vaccine series consists of three injections given over a six-month period, which are available through your private health care provider, health department, or University Student Health Services.