

PATIENT POLICY

Title: Hepatitis B for Occupational Health purposes

Review Date: October 2024

Version: 1.3

Introduction:

Under the current GP contract **there is no obligation under the regulations for a practice to provide occupational health services for patients.** That responsibility rests with your employer under Health and Safety Legislation, and in occupations where there is a risk to health from any form of work-related infection it is the employer's duty to assess that risk and, if present, to protect their workforce.

The same applies for healthcare students who require a hepatitis B immunisation prior to, or on entering, a course. Medical Schools are legally responsible for providing a full occupational health service to their students and applicants. This should include appropriate training for example in risk reduction and coping with needle stick injuries.

However, if your employer can confirm to the practice that they have completed the required risk assessments under Health & Safety legislation and that you have been fully advised of these risks surrounding your role and the reasons for you receiving the vaccination, the practice can supply Hepatitis vaccinations and subsequent blood tests as a private service at a charge to your employer due to the regulations surrounding private charges to a practices patients (N.B. Medical students will still need to approach their Medical Schools due to further risks involved).

Policy:

Should you wish to go ahead with receiving Hepatitis vaccinations from the practice the following steps need to be followed;

- Download from the practice website (in Patient Information) or ask Reception for an Employers Hep B letter and occupational health risk assessment form.
- Complete the sections on the form that relate to your medical conditions.
- Take the letter and form to your employer who should then go through their H&S risk assessment for Hepatitis B with you and explain fully the reasons behind why you are having these vaccinations and the risks involved for your particular role.
- Your employer should then complete the employer section of the form and sign\stamp with the company stamp to show that they have discussed the risks and reasons with you and will pay for your vaccinations and blood test.
- Once you are happy that your employer has explained all the reasons and risks associated with the vaccine sign the form and return it to the surgery.

Once the form has been received into the surgery we will arrange for an invoice to be sent to your company for payment. Once payment has been received from your company by the practice you will be contacted and an appointment will be made for you to see the practice nurse for your first (& subsequent) vaccination(s).

Self Employed patients;

Unfortunately as the Atrium Health Centre does not have any GP's who are occupational health trained, we cannot offer this private service to any of our patients who are self-employed.