



**HEPATITIS B VACCINE  
FACT SHEET FOR HEALTH  
CARE WORKERS IN  
BOTSWANA**



FS 739935



Promoting access to safe medicines

## 1. Indication

The hepatitis B vaccine is used to prevent infection caused by the hepatitis B virus (HBV).

- Protects against acute hepatitis B infection (which can cause jaundice, liver failure, and death).
- Prevents chronic hepatitis B infection, which may lead to cirrhosis and liver cancer.
- Provides protection for infants born to hepatitis B infected mothers, reducing the risk of mother-to-child transmission.

## 2. Administration

Age	Dose
Birth	First dose (DO NOT use Pentavalent vaccine here, only Hepatitis B vaccine)
2 months	Second dose (included in Pentavalent vaccine)
3 months	Third dose (included in Pentavalent vaccine)
4 months	Fourth dose (included in Pentavalent vaccine)

### Route of administration:

- Intramuscular injection only.
- Infants (<12 months): anterolateral thigh.
- Children ≥12 months and adults: deltoid muscle of the upper arm.
- Do not administer intravenously, intradermally, or subcutaneously.

**Important: Always consult the vaccine information leaflet included with the product for detailed preparation and administration instructions.**

## 3. Warnings and Precautions

- Liver disease: The vaccine does not treat existing hepatitis B infection.
- Immunocompromised individuals: May require additional doses to achieve protection.
- Observation: Monitor for at least 15 minutes after vaccination to manage fainting or allergic reactions.

## 4. Contraindications

**Do not administer the hepatitis B vaccine to individuals with:**

- Severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) after a previous dose or to any component of the vaccine (including yeast-derived proteins).
- Severe acute illness (vaccination should be delayed until recovery).

## 5. Adverse Reactions

**Common side effects:**

- Pain, redness, or swelling at the injection site
- Low-grade fever
- Headache or fatigue
- Irritability in infants

**Less common side effects:**

- Dizziness
- Rash
- Serious but rare adverse events:
- Severe allergic reactions (anaphylaxis)

## 6. Adverse Event Reporting in Botswana:

Health care workers are encouraged to report any suspected adverse events following immunisation (AEFI) to BoMRA. Reporting helps monitor vaccine safety and protect public health. Even if you are uncertain whether the vaccine caused the reaction, reporting ensures potential concerns are identified early.

### Steps to report an AEFI:

1. Scan the QR code provided
2. Accept the terms and conditions
3. Complete the reporting form with all available information
4. Submit the form



### Or contact:

**Email:** [aefi@bomra.co.bw](mailto:aefi@bomra.co.bw)

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