

# HEPATITIS VICTORIA

To whom it may concern,

Hepatitis Victoria is aware there is currently a global shortage of adult formulation hepatitis B vaccine (called Engerix-B®) in the private market. This shortage is expected to continue into 2018.

The Australian Government Department of Health has advised it is currently working closely with hepatitis B vaccine suppliers (e.g. the GSK) as well as state and territory governments to better understand the extent and impact of the shortage and to consider options to address it.

For your reference, here is the link to the official statement (released on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2017) on the GSK Australia website.

<http://au.gsk.com/en-au/media/press-releases/2017/engerix-b-hepatitis-b-vaccine-availability/>

For student placements or employment purposes, universal workplace precautions should still apply including appropriate first-aid care.

In addition, there are no shortages of hepatitis B vaccine in the government programs. In Victoria, free hepatitis B vaccine is provided for people who are at increased risk including:

- household contacts and sexual partners of people living with hepatitis B
- people who inject drugs or are on opioid substitution therapy
- people living with hepatitis C
- men who have sex with men
- people living with HIV
- prisoners and people on remand who do not have hepatitis B or immunity against hepatitis B
- people no longer in a custodial setting who commenced, but did not complete, a free vaccine course while in custody
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Further queries can be directed to the Hepatitis Victoria Infoline on **1800 703 003** (9.00am – 5.00pm, Monday – Friday).

Hepatitis Victoria

Infoline service team