

Protection against hepatitis B

Immunising medical students against hepatitis B and testing their response protects both them and their patients against the risk of contracting hepatitis B. For this reason, the Medical School follows the Department of Health regulations on this subject and requires that all medical students provide proof that they have completed a full course of immunisations against hepatitis B and have developed a protective antibody response, or, in the case of those who have failed to respond to the vaccine, that they are not infectious carriers of the virus. The Medical School will accept ¹ as documentary proof an authenticated ² laboratory report showing *either* the presence of hepatitis B surface antibody *or*, if you have failed to produce an adequate antibody response after a full course of immunisations ³, that you are negative for hepatitis B surface antigen and hepatitis B e antigen ⁴. The Medical School reserves the right to re-test any or all of its medical students for any or all markers of hepatitis B virus at any time during their course ⁵.

Notes:

1. It is most convenient if you are able to present the necessary documentation before you are registered on the course. However, in exceptional circumstances the Medical School will allow you to begin the course without this documentation, but during this time you will not be allowed to participate in so-called "exposure prone procedures", and you will be required to present evidence of immunity or lack of infectivity at the latest 6 months after you start the course. Students who do not satisfy this requirement will be required to leave the course immediately.
2. An authenticated report is one from a UK laboratory and which confirms your identity by the use of photo ID.
3. Non responders are those with a titre of less than 10 IU/L
4. You should be aware that the full course of immunisation can take up to 9 months, so you are advised to consult your own doctor for advice at an early stage.
5. Both the Department of Health and the General Medical Council are currently reviewing their advice on this subject, and these recommendations may change during your course. The Medical School reserves the right to alter its regulations at any time in the light of these changes.