

**Maine Medical Center  
Transplant Program  
Policies and Procedures  
Vaccination Policy**

**Purpose**

To outline the Maine Transplant Program Policy and Procedure for vaccinating transplant candidates and recipients.

**Policy**

- Transplant candidates and recipients are at an increased risk of infectious complications.
- Such patients will be appropriately vaccinated prior to transplantation.
- Recommendations from the American Society of Transplantation are used as a guideline.
- Live vaccinations (most commonly MMR, Varicella, and Zostavax) are contraindicated in immunosuppressed patients.

**Procedures**

1. Antibody titers pertinent to vaccination are drawn during the transplant evaluation for the following: Hepatitis B, Varicella, Mumps, Rubella, Rubeola, Hepatitis C, HIV, and Syphilis
2. Serologic results are documented in the lab results section of the electronic medical record.
3. Vaccination for Varicella is required for candidates prior to transplantation unless immunity is demonstrated via lab testing.
4. Vaccination for Measles, Rubella, and Rubeola is required for candidates prior to transplantation unless immunity is demonstrated via lab testing.
5. From 12/1/21, vaccination against COVID-19
6. Pneumococcal prophylaxis:
  - a. Pneumovax: recommended every 5 years before and after transplantation.
  - b. Prevnar: a single dose is recommended either before or after transplantation. Not to be administered within 1 month of either pneumovax or influenza vaccination
7. Pretransplant candidates over the age of 60 are advised to receive Shingrix from their PCP.
8. Influenza Vaccine:
  - a. Inactivated influenza vaccine will be offered to transplant recipients yearly.
  - b. Transplant candidates are generally advised to receive the influenza vaccine through their dialysis unit, nephrologist or PCP
  - c. The only exception is for transplant candidates with identified living donors. There is evidence of risk of allosensitization after vaccination. These individuals are advised to avoid vaccination prior to transplantation accordingly.
  - d. In the event a transplant candidate is found to have been vaccinated since their last serum sample for cross matching was obtained, a repeat serum sample will be sent to the HLA lab for updated cross match testing
9. Decisions regarding Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussus, Meningococcal and Gardasil vaccinations are deferred to the PCP.

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Reviewed Dates: 6/17/09, 5/7/12, 8/8/14, 11/4/16, 1/17/18, 1/18/21, 9/1/21, 1/11/22

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