

Significant events in hepatitis A vaccination practice in Australia

Year	Month	Intervention
1994		<p>First hepatitis A vaccine registered for use in adults; 3 doses recommended for at-risk groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • travellers to areas of intermediate or high endemicity • persons with an occupational risk of exposure (day care centre carers; teachers of intellectually disabled; staff and residents of facilities for intellectually disabled; health workers and teachers in remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities; nursing staff and other healthcare workers in contact with patients in paediatric and infectious disease wards) • homosexual men • persons with chronic liver disease or liver transplants • recipients of blood products
1997	February	List of at-risk individuals for whom hepatitis A vaccination is recommended expanded to include: nursing staff and other healthcare workers in contact with patients in the emergency department and intensive care units; sewage workers; food handlers
1999	February	Funded Hepatitis A vaccination program commenced in north Queensland for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 18 months to 6 years
2000	February	Second hepatitis A vaccine registered for use in children and adults aged ≥ 2 years
	March	List of at-risk individuals for whom hepatitis A vaccination is recommended expanded to include: visitors to remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities; injecting drug users
	March	List of at-risk individuals for whom hepatitis A vaccination is recommended revised for recipients of blood products to be haemophiliacs who may receive pooled plasma concentrates
	March	List of at-risk individuals for whom hepatitis A vaccination is recommended revised for nursing staff and other healthcare workers in contact with patients in paediatric and infectious disease wards, the emergency department and intensive care units to be nursing and medical staff in paediatric wards, the emergency department and intensive care units that provide for substantial populations of Indigenous children and those staff in rural and remote Indigenous communities
	March	Food handlers removed from list of at-risk individuals for whom hepatitis A vaccination is recommended
2004	October	Third hepatitis A vaccine registered for use in children and adults aged ≥ 12 months
2005	November	Hepatitis A vaccination (2 doses) recommended and funded for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 12–24 months of age residing in NT, QLD, SA and WA: in NT and WA scheduled at ages 12 and 18 months; in QLD and SA scheduled at ages 18 and 24 months
2008	January	List of at-risk individuals for whom hepatitis A vaccination is recommended expanded to include: plumbers; sex workers; persons with chronic hepatitis B or C
2013	March	Hepatitis A vaccine recommended for use as post-exposure prophylaxis in immunocompetent persons aged ≥ 12 months
	March	List of at-risk individuals for whom hepatitis A vaccination is recommended expanded to include inmates of correctional facilities
	July	Scheduled ages for funded hepatitis A vaccination (2 doses) for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in QLD and SA lowered to 12 and 18 months