

### **1. Why do I have to be screened on entry to my Healthcare course**

Screening is essential to protect you and your future patients. The University must ensure that students do not pose a risk to their future patients and that the students themselves are protected in as far as possible from risk. While the risk of transmission of infection from healthcare worker to patients is low the consequences of transmission of for example HIV, Hepatitis B or Hepatitis C can be very serious.

The university therefore screens all students on entry to establish their status. Vaccination for Hepatitis B then takes place in the Student Health Service.

### **2. Can I be screened by my own GP?**

No, the Student Health Service must follow standard protocols and use identified validated samples and an accredited laboratory to ensure accurate testing and results.

### **3. If I do test positive for a blood borne virus will I be prevented from taking up a place in medical school?**

No you will not be prevented from taking up a place but there will be limitations on your practice. For example you may not be able to work as a surgeon or obstetrician if you are an infective carrier of a blood borne virus

### **4. I have a medical card, does this cover the cost of screening and vaccination?**

No, the medical card does not cover the cost as it covers medical care and not screening

### **5. My father/mother is a doctor can they carry out the screening and vaccination?**

No, the Student Health Service must follow standard protocols and use identified validated samples and accredited laboratory to ensure accurate testing and results.

### **6. I do not wish to receive any vaccinations will I be prevented from taking up my place?**

Vaccination with Hepatitis B is mandatory. If you have concerns about any vaccination please discuss with Student Health Service and/or Dr Paddy Mallon Medical School

### **7. I have been vaccinated for Hep B, do I need to repeat the vaccines?**

If you have documented evidence of vaccination and documented evidence of seroconversion you will not need to repeat the vaccine

**8. Do I have to pay the full fee if I am vaccinated against Hepatitis B already?**

If you have documented evidence of vaccination and documentation that you have immunity on blood test to Hepatitis B you will be given a partial refund of the fee.

**9. Why do I not get a full refund if I have been fully immunised elsewhere?**

The fee covers the cost of pre entry screening including review of documents, blood testing, management of your results and the professional and administrative costs involved in addition to the vaccination costs. Only the vaccination costs are refunded to those students who do not require vaccination.

**10. Can I have a blood test to see if I am immune to MMR rather than having a vaccination?**

A blood test cannot confirm whether or not you are immune to measles mumps or rubella. Evidence of immunity for those born after 1978 needs to be two doses of MMR vaccine.

**11. Is there any other vaccines advised for Healthcare students?**

You should ensure that you are up to date with Tetanus vaccination, a booster vaccination for Pertussis [whooping cough] and an annual flu vaccine.

See [HSE Immunisation Guidelines](#) for further information on vaccination for healthcare workers.