HEPATITIS B VACCINE INFORMATION

THE DISEASE:

Hepatitis B is a viral infection caused by Hepatitis B Virus (HBV). Most people with Hepatitis B recover completely, but approximately five (5) percent to ten (10) percent become chronic carriers of the virus. Most of these people have no symptoms, but can continue to transmit the disease to others. Some may develop chronic active hepatitis and cirrhosis. HBV also appears to be a causative factor in the development of liver cancer. Thus, immunization against Hepatitis B can prevent acute hepatitis and also reduce sickness and death from chronic active hepatitis, cirrhosis and liver cancer.

THE VACCINE

Possible Side Effects: (Incidence of side effects is generally low.)

1. Injection site soreness is the most common adverse reaction.
2. Less common local reactions are redness, swelling, warmth or an area of hardness which usually subsides in 48 hours.
3. Low-grade fever occurs occasionally during the 48 hour period after vaccination.
4. Fatigue, headache, nausea, dizziness, muscle or joint pains are uncommon.
5. Rash is rare.

Contraindications:

1. Hypersensitivity to any component of the vaccine.
2. The vaccine is not given to pregnant women.
3. Presence of any serious active infection.

NOTE: Because of the long incubation period for Hepatitis B, it is possible for unrecognized infection to be present at the time the vaccine is given. The vaccine may not prevent Hepatitis B in such people.

If you have any questions about Hepatitis B or the Hepatitis B vaccine, please ask your personal physician.

I have read the above statement about Hepatitis B and Hepatitis B vaccine. I have has the opportunity to ask questions and understand the benefits and risk of Hepatitis B.

______ I have chosen not to receive the vaccine.

______ I have received the vaccine previously. 

Date: __________________________

Student Signature: _______________________________ Date: __________________________