

# Before you vaccinate adults, consider their “H-A-L-O”!

**What is H-A-L-O?** As shown below, it’s an easy-to-use chart that can help you make an *initial* decision about vaccinating a patient based on four factors – the patient’s **Health condition, Age, Lifestyle, and Occupation**. In some situations, though, you can vaccinate a patient without considering these factors. For example, all adults need a dose of Tdap as well as annual vaccination against influenza, and any adult who wants protection against hepatitis A or hepatitis B can be vaccinated. Note that not all patients who mention one or more **H-A-L-O** factors will need to be vaccinated. Before you

make a *definitive* decision about vaccinating your patient, it’s important that you refer to the more detailed information found in the Immunization Action Coalition’s “Summary of Recommendations for Adult Immunization,” located at [www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2011.pdf](http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2011.pdf) or the complete vaccine recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) at [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/index.html).

**How do I use H-A-L-O?**  
Though some H-A-L-O factors can be easily determined (e.g., age, pregnancy), you will need to ask your patient about the presence or absence of others. Once you determine which of the factors apply, scan down each column of the chart to see at a glance which vaccinations are possibly indicated.

## H-A-L-O checklist of factors that indicate a possible need for adult vaccination

Vaccine	H Health Factors								A Age Factors	L Lifestyle Factors						O Occupational or other factors						
	Pregnant	Certain chronic diseases	Immunosuppressed (including HIV)	History of STD	Asplenia	Cochlear implant candidate/recipient	Organ transplant (for stem cell transplant, see ACIP’s General Recommendations on Immunization)	CSF leaks	Alcoholism		Born outside the U.S.	Men who have sex with men	Not in a long-term, mutually monogamous relationship	User of injecting or non-injecting drugs	International traveler	Close contact of international adoptee	Cigarette smoker	College students	Healthcare worker	Certain lab workers	People who live or work in an area of an outbreak	Adults in institutional settings (e.g., chronic care, correctional)
HepA		✓							Anyone of any age who wants to be protected		✓		✓	✓	✓				✓	✓		
HepB		✓	✓	✓					Anyone of any age who wants to be protected	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓				✓
Hib		✓			✓																	
HPV (females)									Through 26 yrs													
HPV (males)			✓						Routine through age 21; for age 22–26: risk groups and others who want to be protected		✓											
IPV														✓					✓			
Influenza	Annual vaccination is recommended for all adults.....▶																					
Meningococcal ACWY		✓	✓		✓									✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	
Meningococcal B		✓			✓				Any adult age 22–26 yrs who wants to be protected										✓	✓	✓	
MMR			?						Routine 1 dose if born after 1956; 2nd dose for some					✓			✓	✓		✓		
PCV13		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	65 yrs and older (if not previously vaccinated)													
PPSV23		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	65 yrs and older							✓						
Tdap	A single dose is recommended for all adults; pregnant women should receive Tdap during each pregnancy.....▶																					
Varicella	Completion of a 2-dose series is recommended for non-pregnant adults through age 59 years who do not have evidence of immunity to varicella.....▶																					
Zoster									50 yrs and older													

? = Vaccination may be indicated depending on degree of immunosuppression