The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends the hepatitis A vaccine to appropriate unvaccinated adults who are at risk for hepatitis A virus infection. According to the CDC, some examples of these groups include:

- International travelers to regions with increased rates of hepatitis A
- People with chronic liver disease
- Users of injection and non-injection drugs
- People experiencing homelessness
- Men who have sex with men

Please refer to the CDC’s Pink Book and the ACIP Schedule for the complete hepatitis A vaccination recommendations and full list of special situations recommended for hepatitis A vaccination.

Do not give the hepatitis A vaccine if your patient:

- Has ever had a severe allergic reaction after a dose of hepatitis A vaccine, or has a severe allergy to any part of the vaccine
- Has a moderate or severe acute illness. Vaccination should be deferred until the person’s condition has improved

In the United States, an important risk factor for contracting hepatitis A, among others, is international travel.
International travel and hepatitis A (cont’dd)

• According to the CDC, persons traveling to countries that have high or intermediate rates of hepatitis A should be vaccinated before traveling\(^3\)

• The risk for hepatitis A exists even for travelers to urban areas, those who stay in luxury hotels, and those who report that they are careful about what they drink and eat\(^4\)

• Some travel experts advise people traveling outside the United States to consider vaccination against hepatitis A regardless of their destination\(^3\)

Chronic liver disease and hepatitis A

• Patients with chronic liver disease are not at increased risk for hepatitis A virus infection; however, they are at increased risk for complications should they become infected\(^1\)

• Complications among patients with chronic liver disease include fulminant hepatitis A (rapid onset of liver failure), which is often fatal\(^1\)

• The CDC recommends that appropriate patients with chronic liver disease receive hepatitis A vaccination\(^{1,2}\)