

# Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program Guidelines

## Chapter 5: What Parents Need to Know

### Table of Contents

Pages 95-98

1. **Hepatitis B Facts**
2. **References and Parent Resources**, with links to:
  - 1) Hepatitis B Manual References
  - 2) Acute Hepatitis B in Children
  - 3) Asian Liver Center
  - 4) Basic Knowledge About Hepatitis B
  - 5) CDC Hepatitis B Fact Sheet
  - 6) CDC Protect Your Baby for Life Brochure
  - 7) Chronic Hepatitis B in Adults
  - 8) DOH Start Protecting Your Baby at Birth Brochure
  - 9) Frequently Asked Questions
  - 10) Order Hepatitis B Materials
  - 11) Parents of kids with Infectious Diseases (PKIDS), Hepatitis
  - 12) WAC: Notifiable Conditions and the Health Care Provider
  - 13) What the Physician Can Do to Help the Child with Chronic Hepatitis B Virus Infection
  - 14) Hepatitis B Series Completion Certificate for Baby & Parents



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# Hepatitis B Facts

- Acute (short-term) and chronic (long-lasting) effects of hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection are a major health problem.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that 79,000 infections occur in the United States (U.S.) each year with 21,000 of those acute (short-term) and symptomatic (showing symptoms).
- About 1.25 million people in the U.S. have chronic HBV and can potentially spread the disease to others.
- Many people with chronic HBV infection are at risk of getting long-term conditions such as chronic liver disease and liver cancer. Each year, about 4,000-5,000 of these people die from chronic liver disease.
- Hepatitis B infection in the Asian Pacific Islander population is 10 percent or 60 times greater than that of the general population.
- Hepatitis B infection can spread from mother to child during labor. About 19,000 babies born in the U.S. each year have an HBV-infected mother, which means they are exposed to the virus. Unless they get proper post-exposure prevention, up to 90 percent of these babies get infected. Of those infected, 90 percent will become chronically infected. Up to 25 percent of the babies who become chronically infected will die from primary hepatocellular carcinoma or cirrhosis of the liver, usually as adults.
- Getting immunized with hepatitis B vaccine is the most effective way to prevent HBV infection. Pregnant women who are chronically infected with HBV – called hepatitis B surface antigen-positive or HBsAg-positive – can prevent giving HBV to their babies during birth. These women must be identified and their babies must get prevention after birth, which means:
  - Hepatitis B immune globulin (HBIG) *and* hepatitis B vaccine within 12 hours of birth, and
  - Additional doses of vaccine at 1-2 months and 6 months of age.
- CDC recommends testing all pregnant women for HBV early in each pregnancy even if they have had the vaccine or test previously. Women who test HBsAg-negative early in pregnancy but are in a high-risk category for getting HBV should be retested when they get to the delivery hospital.

## References and Resources

References for this Hepatitis B Prevention Program Guidelines Manual and Helpful Resources for Parents

### Manual References

- CDC Hepatitis B Vaccine: What You Need to Know – Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/downloads/vis-hep-b.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/downloads/vis-hep-b.pdf)
- Hepatitis B Facts: Testing and Vaccination [www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2110.pdf](http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2110.pdf)
- Order Hepatitis B Materials [www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/immunize/forms/default.htm](http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/immunize/forms/default.htm)
- WAC 246-101-101 Notifiable Conditions and the Health Care Provider: <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=246-101-101>

### Parent Resources

- Acute Hepatitis B in Children [www.cdc.gov/ncphi/diss/nndss/casedef/hepatitisb2000.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncphi/diss/nndss/casedef/hepatitisb2000.htm)
- Asian Liver Center <http://liver.stanford.edu/Public/brochures.html>
- Basic Knowledge About Hepatitis B [www.immunize.org/nslt.d/n19/n19.pdf](http://www.immunize.org/nslt.d/n19/n19.pdf)
- CDC Hepatitis B Fact Sheet [www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/HBV/PDFs/HepBGeneralFactSheet.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/HBV/PDFs/HepBGeneralFactSheet.pdf)
- CDC Protect Your Baby for Life Brochure [www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/Resources/OrderPubs/Patient/ProtectBabyHepB\\_Eng.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/Resources/OrderPubs/Patient/ProtectBabyHepB_Eng.pdf)
- Chronic Hepatitis B in Adults [www.cdc.gov/ncphi/diss/nndss/casedef/hepatitisbcurrent.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncphi/diss/nndss/casedef/hepatitisbcurrent.htm)
- DOH Start Protecting Your Baby at Birth brochure <http://here.doh.wa.gov/materials/start-protecting-your-baby-at-birth-with-hepatitis-b-vaccine>
- Frequently Asked Questions [www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4090.pdf](http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4090.pdf)
- Order Hepatitis B Materials [www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/immunize/forms/default.htm](http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/immunize/forms/default.htm)
- Parents of Kids with Infectious Diseases (PKIDS), Hepatitis [www.pkids.org/dis\\_hep.php](http://www.pkids.org/dis_hep.php)
- WAC 246-101-101 Notifiable Conditions and the Health Care Provider: <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=246-101-101>

- What the Physician Can Do to Help the Child with Chronic Hepatitis B Virus Infection: [www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2170.pdf](http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2170.pdf)
  
- Hepatitis B Series Completion Certificate for Baby & Parents: [www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/Immunize/documents/hepbcompcert.doc](http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/Immunize/documents/hepbcompcert.doc)