



Prenatal Care Provider Policies and Procedures to Prevent Perinatal Hepatitis B Virus Transmission

Prenatal care providers should test every woman for hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) during an early prenatal visit (e.g., in the first trimester), even if a woman has been previously vaccinated or tested.

In addition, prenatal care settings should incorporate each of the following actions into their policies and protocols:

For a pregnant woman with a *positive* HBsAg test result

- Report the positive test result to the health department.
- Provide a copy of the original laboratory report indicating the pregnant woman's HBsAg status to the hospital where the delivery is planned and to the health-care provider who will care for the newborn.
- Attach an alert notice or sticker to the woman's medical record to remind the delivery hospital/nursery that the infant will need hepatitis B vaccine and HBIG at birth.
- Educate the mother about the need for immunoprophylaxis of her infant at birth, and obtain consent for immunoprophylaxis before delivery. Consider printing additional reminder notices for mothers about the importance of immunoprophylaxis for infants and attaching the notices to the inside front or back cover of the medical record.
- Advise the mother that all household, sexual, and needle-sharing contacts should be tested for HBV infection and vaccinated if susceptible.
- Provide information to the mother about hepatitis B, including modes of transmission, prenatal concerns (e.g., infants born to HBsAg-positive mothers may be breastfed), medical evaluation and possible treatment of chronic hepatitis B, and substance abuse treatment (if appropriate).
- Refer the mother to a medical specialist for evaluation of chronic hepatitis B.

For a pregnant woman with a *negative* HBsAg test result

- Provide a copy of the original laboratory report indicating the pregnant woman's HBsAg status to the hospital where the delivery is planned and to the health-care provider who will care for the newborn.
- Include information in prenatal care education about the rationale for and importance of newborn hepatitis B vaccination for all infants.
- Administer the hepatitis B vaccine series if the patient has a risk factor for HBV infection during pregnancy (e.g., injection-drug use, more than one sex partner in the previous 6 months or an HBsAg-positive sex partner, evaluation or treatment for a sexually-transmitted disease [STD]).
- Repeat HBsAg testing upon admission to labor and delivery for HBsAg-negative women who are at risk for HBV infection during pregnancy or who have had clinical hepatitis since previous testing.