



Indiana State Department of Health

Epidemiology Resource Center



Adult Viral Hepatitis Prevention Program Newsletter

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For questions or suggestions, contact
Brittany M. Gross, MPH, Viral Hepatitis Prevention Coordinator
bgross@isdh.in.gov
317-233-7627

Update on the Viral Hepatitis Resource Guide

Earlier this year, the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) sent a survey to providers throughout the state to determine the services and care that are provided and available to those with viral hepatitis. Thank you to all who participated! Approximately 40 responses were received, and the large majority of those were from local health departments. In an effort to obtain a broader perspective of the services and resources available, the survey will be sent to community health centers around the state. Please encourage your partners to participate. Also, should you receive the survey a second time; there is no need to complete the survey again. Measures will be taken to prevent this but should it happen, please delete it unless there have been changes in your organization that you would like the resource guide to reflect. Thanks again for your participation!

Spotlight on...

USPSTF New Recommendations Include Baby Boomers

The U. S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) hepatitis C virus screening recommendation statement was released June 24, 2013. This important recommendation aligns the USPSTF and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations which was one of the "Actions" in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Viral Hepatitis Action Plan. The aligned recommendations will support the implementation of testing based on risk factors and the age cohort of baby boomers, as well as enhance many other aspects of the federal response to hepatitis C. To read more, visit, <http://bit.ly/18sT8kI>. To review the USPSTF recommendation statement, please click [here](#).

New Guideline to Reduce Disease Transmission through Organ Transplantation

The HHS has released a new guideline to improve patient safety by reducing unexpected disease transmission through organ transplantation. This guideline updates the 1994 U.S. Public Health Service (PHS) guideline for preventing transmission of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) through organ transplantation and adds guidance for reducing unexpected transmission of hepatitis B virus (HBV) and hepatitis C virus (HCV). To read a summary of the changes to the guidelines, visit <http://bit.ly/12gyakH>. Additionally, the full report can be accessed at <http://www.publichealthreports.org/issueopen.cfm?articleID=2975>.

Hepatitis Resources

- **Cool Websites**

- **Better to Know C**

<http://www.bettertoknowc.com/>

This is a website for the general population about hepatitis C, covering topics such as risk factors, testing and treatment. The website also contains some videos to watch discussing these same topics.

- **Check for Hep C**

<http://www.checkforhepc.com/>

This is a sister website of Better to Know C and is designed for providers. It covers topics such as who to check for hepatitis C, why to check, how to check and resources.

❖ Please note that this not an endorsement of any pharmaceutical company.

➤ **Project Inform**

Project Inform has a new series of educational booklets, *Hepatitis C & HIV Co-infection*. For more information, visit www.projectinform.org/hivhealth/

If you would like to review the content, the PDFs for each of the three booklets can be found on the website at www.projectinform.org/coinfection/. There's an order form on the page to order sets in English and/or Spanish.

Project Inform believes it is possible to create the first generation free of HIV and hepatitis C within the next decade. To achieve that dream, work is focused in four areas: drug development, bio-medical prevention, education and health care access.

Project Inform encourages the development of better treatments and cures for both HIV and hepatitis C. They advocate for innovative, medically-based prevention strategies. They provide up-to-date, life-saving information to help people living with HIV and hepatitis C to make the best choices regarding their treatment and care. They also work with governments to set policies and assure unlimited access to affordable health care that will one day end the HIV and hepatitis C epidemics.

Viral Hepatitis Updates & News

➤ **Hepatitis C Reinfection Rising Among HIV Patients**

Nearly 25 percent of HIV patients infected with and subsequently cured of the hepatitis C virus went on to acquire a second or even third infection within 24 months at one hospital in the United Kingdom. These results suggest that much better educational initiatives related to coinfection with HIV and hepatitis C are needed. It has previously been shown that coinfection with HIV reduces the spontaneous clearance of hepatitis C infection, reduces the rate of successful treatment and can lead to a three-fold increase in the rate of progression to cirrhosis. To read more, visit <http://bit.ly/15LFkNc>

➤ **Give Birth to the End of Hep B!**

The Immunization Action Coalition (IAC) is asking all of its partners to get involved in promoting the hepatitis B vaccine birth dose.

Experts agree that hepatitis B can be eliminated in the U.S. and that preventing the transmission of the virus at birth is fundamental to this effort.

Yet, despite expert consensus, nearly one in three U.S. newborns leave the hospital unvaccinated against hepatitis B. As a result, approximately 800 U.S. newborns become chronically infected each year because of perinatal exposure. These newborns would be afforded a “safety net” if a

birth dose were universally administered before hospital discharge.

A new website that provides complete information and resources about the birth dose is located at www.immunize.org/protect-newborns.

Two New Resources from IAC

In addition to increasing awareness about the need for the hepatitis B birth dose, the initiative offers tools to help birthing institutions adopt or strengthen their birth dose policies.

The centerpiece of this supportive effort is IAC's new, comprehensive guidebook, *Hepatitis B: What Hospitals Need to Do to Protect Newborns*. Endorsed by the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the CDC, the guide contains a wide range of resources to help birthing institutions establish, implement and optimize their hepatitis B birth dose policies.

Visit www.immunize.org/protect-newborns/guide to view the guidebook's table of contents and download some or all of its sections.

Complementing the guidebook is the new Hepatitis B Birth Dose Honor Roll, which recognizes birthing institutions that have attained a birth dose coverage rate of 90 percent or greater and have met specific additional criteria. These criteria help define the important elements of a birth dose policy that are needed to ensure newborns do not fall through the cracks when medical errors occur.

In achieving a 99 percent coverage rate, Albany Medical Center, Albany, New York, became the first birth dose champion to be inducted into the honor roll at the initiative's July 16 launch event in Albany, New York.

The launch event also included a nationally broadcast webinar with speakers from CDC, IAC, New York State Department of Health and Albany Medical Center. [The 45-minute webinar is available online](#).

For information about the Hepatitis B Birth Dose Honor Roll and how you can apply, visit www.immunize.org/honor-roll/birthdose.

Please Get On Board

August is National Immunization Awareness Month. What better time to join the cause, and help *Give birth to the end of Hep B?*

Here's what you can do:

- Download the guidebook *Hepatitis B: What Hospitals Need to Do to Protect Newborns*; available at www.immunize.org/protect-newborns/guide;
- Share the guide with hospitals and birthing centers to help them improve birth dose coverage rates;
- Distribute the handout "Give Birth to the End of Hep B" (color version, black/white version), to educate others about the importance of the hepatitis B birth dose;
- Apply for enrollment into the Birth Dose Honor Roll at www.immunize.org/honor-roll/birthdose

This initiative is a continuing campaign to assist the nation's more than 3,000 birthing institutions as they adopt and strengthen their hepatitis B birth dose policies.

With your partnership, we **will** *Give birth to the end of Hep B!*

Save-the-Date

➤ **Annual Conference on Minority Health Issues**

The ISDH Office of Minority Health, along with the Minority Health Partners Committee, would like to invite you to the **Annual Statewide Conference on Minority Health Issues: *What You Don't Know Can Kill!*** The conference will be held on Friday September 23, 2013 at the Indiana Government Center South. The goal is to empower and educate community, education, business and governmental leaders who primarily serve in minority target populations across the State and to provide information on preparedness, environmental and minority health issues that are rapidly growing, but are not addressed in day to day mainstream sources. More details will be included in next month's newsletter, so stay tuned.