

# Give birth to the end of Hep B

## In Washington State



Hospitals and birthing centers can join efforts with the Immunization Action Coalition (IAC) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to meet the national standard of care by giving a dose of HepB vaccine to every newborn.

Every year one to five newborns in our state are infected with hepatitis B through perinatal exposure. Two out of ten babies leave the hospital unprotected, and nationally only 70% receive the vaccine within three days of birth.

### Why give HepB vaccine to all newborns?

- Prevents mother-to-baby transmission
- Provides a safety net of protection
  - ✓ Protects babies from infected family members and other caregivers.
  - ✓ Prevents perinatal transmission when medical errors occur.

### Why is a safety net needed?

Because medical errors happen, like:

- Not giving the HepB vaccine to babies born to moms of unknown HBsAg status within 12 hours of birth.
- Not giving prophylaxis to the baby even when the mom's HBsAg-positive status is documented.
- Failing to repeat testing of pregnant women at high risk for developing hepatitis B infection.
- Ordering the wrong hepatitis B screening test.

### Who recommends the HepB birth dose?

- American Academy of Family Physicians
- American Academy of Pediatrics
- American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

### What can you do to comply and meet the national standards of care and quality measure?

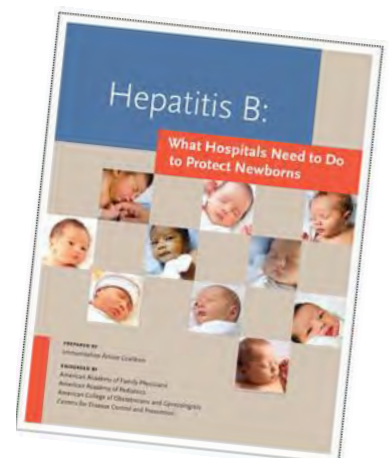
1. Implement the recommended "universal HepB vaccine birth dose policy" by way of standard newborn admission order.
2. Follow national recommendations for prophylaxis of babies born to moms who are HBsAg positive or whose HBsAg status is unknown.
3. Measure and report the percentage of newborns who receive HepB vaccination before discharge.

CDC's complete hepB birth dose recommendations are found at [www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr5416.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr5416.pdf)



### IAC's complete guide

*Hepatitis B: What Hospitals Need to Do to Protect Newborns* is a complete resource to help birthing institutions establish, implement, and optimize their birth dose policies.



Download the guide at [www.immunize.org/protect-newborns](http://www.immunize.org/protect-newborns)

