

Pediatric Care Providers Tasks Overview

The following five tasks help guide pediatric care providers to prevent perinatal hepatitis B transmission. Babies born to HBsAg-positive mothers are at high risk of getting hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection themselves, becoming lifelong (chronic) carriers, and developing serious conditions later in life unless they get proper prevention.

1) Follow Recommendations

Follow the national Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations for infants born to HBsAg-positive mothers. Use the [Provider Checklist](#) to record all vaccination and testing dates and results. Give your infant patients:

- HBIG and hepatitis B vaccine within 12 hours of birth.
- Hepatitis B vaccine dose 2 at 1-2 months of age.
- Hepatitis B vaccine dose 3 at 6 months of age.
- Post-vaccine screening including both HBsAg and anti-HBs at 9 to 12 months of age.

2) Manage Cases

Work with your local health jurisdiction (LHJ) [Hepatitis B Coordinator](#) to manage all infant and child hepatitis B cases. Your LHJ likely is already involved in the case of an HBsAg-positive mother so expect contact from them to follow up with her baby's hepatitis B vaccination and testing. LHJ staff also will follow up with the mother's household contacts and sexual partners to get proper prevention. If you aren't contacted by your LHJ, contact them to make sure the baby's family gets follow-up. Share the information on your [Provider Checklist](#) with your LHJ.

3) Third Dose

Be sure all infants born to HBsAg-positive mothers get dose 3 of hepatitis B vaccine at 6 months of age. This is a stringent schedule to prevent infection. Use the [Provider Checklist](#) to record all vaccine and testing dates and results. Notify your LHJ of the date baby got dose 3.

4) Post-Vaccination Screening

Complete post-vaccination screening for all infants born to HBsAg-positive mothers at 9 to 12 months of age. Educate the baby's parents about the importance of this screening and be sure to tell them the test will show if the infant has developed antibodies to, or has become infected with, HBV. To reduce the stress related with this blood draw, write an order for the test and send the infant to a phlebotomist with experience in pediatric blood draws. Use the Provider Checklist to record all vaccination and testing dates and results. Send the date and laboratory results of the baby's post-vaccination screening to your LHJ's Hepatitis B Coordinator.

5) Repeat Series

Repeat the hepatitis B vaccine series at intervals of 0, 1-2, and 6 months for all infants who test HBsAg-negative and antibody-negative at the post-vaccination screening. Order a second post-vaccination test 1-2 months after the series is completed. Use the [Provider Checklist](#) to record all vaccination and testing dates and results. Notify your LHJ about the dates of re-vaccination and results of tests.