



Overview: What Obstetricians-Gynecologists Need to Know

Disease Burden

United States:

- 800,000-1.4 million people chronically infected with hepatitis B virus (HBV)¹
- 25-45 year olds have the highest rates of HBV infection²
- 24,000 hepatitis B surface antigen-positive (HBsAg-positive) women give birth yearly³
- 12,000 infants and children would be infected with HBV annually, without post-exposure prophylaxis to prevent perinatal HBV infection³
- 52% of HBsAg-positive pregnant women are not identified⁴

Michigan:

- 361-564 infants born to HBsAg-positive women should be identified annually⁴
- 256 infants born to HBsAg-positive women, on average over the last 5 years, were identified annually⁵

Prevention

Prenatal care providers need to:

- Test every pregnant woman during every pregnancy for HBsAg (**even if they have been previously vaccinated or tested, including women previously identified as chronically infected**)
- Inform pregnant women of HBsAg status
- Forward prenatal HBsAg test results, for this pregnancy to delivery hospital

If the patient is HBsAg-positive:

- Report every positive result to the local health department (LHD) within 24 hours (**including women who have been previously reported due to chronic infection**)
- Counsel and provide or refer for medical evaluation and case management

If the patient is HBsAg-negative:

- Assess risk for HBV infection
- Counsel and provide transmission and prevention education
- Vaccinate if high risk
- Retest during last trimester if high risk

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) FAQs for the Public, Jan 31, 2012 <http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/HBV/HBVfaq.htm#overview>

² A Comprehensive Immunization Strategy to Eliminate Transmission of HBV Infection in the U.S., December 2006

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr5516.pdf>

³ Manual for the Surveillance of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases (5th Edition, 2011) <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/surv-manual/chpt04-hepb.html>

⁴ Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) Point Estimates

⁵ Michigan's Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program Annual CDC Report