

Breastfeeding and Hepatitis B

Your Baby will need:

At Birth: HBIG and 1st dose of hepatitis B vaccine within 12 hours of birth.

1-2 months: 2nd dose of hepatitis B vaccine.

6 months: 3rd dose of hepatitis B vaccine.

9-12 months: Blood test to confirm baby is safe from HBV.

- Babies under 2000 grams may need a 4th dose of hepatitis B vaccine.

- If the blood test does not show your baby is safe from getting HBV, they may need more vaccine.

Websites for Support:

<http://www.cdc.gov/breastfeeding/disease/hepatitis.htm>

www.immunize.org

www.hepb.org

www.cdc.gov/hepatitis



Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program (PHBPP)

www.michigan.gov/hepatitisB

Questions please call:

517-388-4815, 517-897-3236, or 517-242-8319.

What you need to know about breastfeeding when you have the hepatitis B virus (HBV)



Can I Breastfeed?

How can I protect my baby from hepatitis B?

If you tested positive for hepatitis B during pregnancy your baby must get a dose of hepatitis B vaccine and a dose of hepatitis B immune globulin (HBIG) within 12 hours of birth.

Your baby will need two more doses of hepatitis B vaccine at one and six months of age. After the vaccines, your baby will need a blood test to be sure they are safe from getting HBV.

If your baby does not get these vaccines on time, there is greater than a 90% chance they will get HBV. There is no second chance!



Should I breastfeed?

The World Health Organization and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) encourage all women to breastfeed their babies. The benefits of breastfeeding your baby are greater than any risk.

Is it safe to breastfeed right after birth?

Yes. Even before vaccines, it is not common for HBV to pass through breast milk.

How long should I breastfeed?

CDC says at least six months to one year or more of breastfeeding can help your baby be healthy.

Will I pass my virus through breast milk?

There has been no proof that HBV passes through breast milk. But you must take care of your nipples so they do not crack and bleed. You need to make sure your baby has a good latch, allow your nipples to air dry, and get help right away if you have pain when nursing.

What should I do if my nipples are cracked and bleeding?

You will need to pump and/or hand express and dump your milk for as long as it takes for your nipples to heal. You should seek help from your doctor or a breastfeeding expert when this happens.



Michigan Department of Health & Human Services (MDHHS) – Division of Immunization

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