Overview: What Pediatricians Need to Know

Disease Burden

United States:

- 24,000 hepatitis B surface antigen-positive (HBsAg-positive) women are expected to give birth annually\(^1\)
- 12,000 infants and children would be infected annually with the hepatitis B virus (HBV) without the appropriate post-exposure prophylaxis to prevent perinatal HBV infection\(^1\)
- Chronic HBV infection develops in:
  - 90% of infants infected at birth\(^2\)
  - 25%-50% of children infected between 1-5 years of age\(^2\)
  - 6%-10% of children infected at 6 years of age and older\(^2\)

Michigan:

- **355-553** infants born to HBsAg-positive women should be identified annually\(^3\)
- 204 infants born to HBsAg-positive women were identified annually over the last 5 years\(^4\)

Prevention

Prevention of HBV transmission requires the coordinated transfer of information between laboratories, primary care providers, hospitals, and the local/state health departments to ensure:

- Maternal HBsAg status is verified to determine the appropriate care needed for all pediatric patients
- Household children/adolescent contacts of HBsAg-positive women are identified, tested and immunized if susceptible
- Infants of HBsAg-positive women receive appropriate prophylaxis and post-vaccination serology

If you have any questions, please call the PHBPP at 517-284-4893 or 800-964-4487. In southeast Michigan, call 313-456-4431 or 313-456-4432.

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\(^3\)CDC Point Estimates

\(^4\)Michigan’s Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program Annual CDC Report