

Hepatitis B Prevention Pocket Guide

Management of patients in primary care settings

- **Test** all adults aged 18 and older at least once in their lifetime. Conduct routine testing for all adults aged 18 and older with known increased risk*, and anyone who requests testing regardless of known or perceived increased risk.
 - Triple panel testing is recommended, which includes testing for HBsAg, anti-HBs and total anti-HBc.
- **Interpret results** using the table on the back of this card.
- **Provide or refer for** follow-up care for patients with diagnosed HBV, including counseling and medication management. Offer the following:
 - Information on modes of HBV transmission and guidance on how to prevent transmission to close contacts, including household, sexual, and drug-use contacts.
 - Referral to substance use disorder treatment and/or mental health care as necessary.
- **Offer** hepatitis A vaccine to patients who are unvaccinated or have not completed the hepatitis A vaccine series. Offer hepatitis B vaccine to patients who are unvaccinated or have not completed the hepatitis B vaccine series and do not already have HBV infection.

Additional considerations for patients with known increased risk or co-occurring diagnoses

In addition to the steps listed above, consider the following for patients with known increased risk or with co-occurring diagnoses:

- **People who inject drugs:** Refer patient to syringe service program and provide education on the importance of never sharing injection drug use equipment.
- **People with close contacts who have HBV:** Provide education on the importance of not sharing personal care items such as toothbrushes, razors, and nail clippers. Consider recommending barrier contraceptives for individuals with a sexual partner who has HBV.
- **People with an HCV or HIV diagnosis:** Provide follow-up care or refer for hepatitis C treatment and/or HIV care management.
- **Men who have sex with men and people with multiple partners:** Provide education on safer sex practices, including the use of barrier contraceptives, HIV PrEP, and doxy PEP.

For management of pregnant patients and/or infants (birth to 2 years of age) reference the following pocket guides:

- Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention – Prenatal
- Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention – Pediatric

*Individuals at increased risk include, but are not limited to, infants born to people with hepatitis B, people born in certain countries where hepatitis B is common and people born in the US who are not vaccinated and whose parents were born in countries where hepatitis B is common. For a complete list, visit Hepatitis B Prevention and Control (www.cdc.gov/hepatitis-b/prevention/index.html)

Interpretation and next steps	HBsAg Hepatitis B Surface Antigen	anti-HBs Hepatitis B Surface Antibody	anti-HBc Hepatitis B Core Antibody
Susceptible No evidence of past or current infection and no evidence of immunity. Patient could be at risk for hepatitis B infection. Offer vaccine if previously unvaccinated.	Nonreactive	Nonreactive	Nonreactive
Previous infection Surface antibodies are present due to a prior HBV infection. Patient has resolved their infection and cannot infect others. Counsel about risk of HBV infection reactivation. No vaccine is needed.	Nonreactive	Reactive	Reactive
Vaccinated Patient has been vaccinated and has no evidence of current or past infection. No vaccine is needed.	Nonreactive	Reactive	Nonreactive
Confirmed infection Positive HBsAg indicates a current HBV infection*. Vaccine is not recommended. Link to HBV care.	Reactive	Nonreactive	Reactive
Possible infection Results are unclear but may indicate a past or current HBV infection. Consult with MDH or a specialty provider for recommendations regarding further evaluation. Vaccine is not recommended. More testing needed.	Nonreactive	Nonreactive	Reactive

References

- [CDC: Clinical Testing and Diagnosis for Hepatitis B \(www.cdc.gov/hepatitis-b/hcp/diagnosis-testing/\)](https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis-b/hcp/diagnosis-testing/)
- [Understanding Your Test Results \(www.hepb.org/prevention-and-diagnosis/diagnosis/understanding-your-test-results/\)](https://www.hepb.org/prevention-and-diagnosis/diagnosis/understanding-your-test-results/)

