

Early Prenatal Visit

Step 1

- Test pregnant patient for HBsAg during an early prenatal visit (e.g., first trimester) in each pregnancy, even if patient has been vaccinated or tested previously. **Note:** Foreign lab reports are **NOT** acceptable.

Step 2

- Vaccinate** pregnant women who are at risk for hepatitis B infection if they are HBsAg-negative and are not immune (anti-HBs negative).

Step 3

- Re-test patients with discrepant lab results (HBsAg+ and HBsAg -) for the following:

⇒ **Total anti-HBc**—indicates previous or ongoing infection with hepatitis B

⇒ **IgM anti-HBc**—a positive result indicates recent infection (within 6 months)

⇒ **HBV DNA**—viral load

⇒ **HBsAg**—may be detected during an acute or chronic infection. A positive result indicates the patient is infectious.

If the patient's status remains unclear at the time of delivery, provide prophylaxis to the infant within 12 hours of birth.

If Mother is HBsAg (+) Positive

Step 1

- Test HBsAg—positive pregnant patient for HBV DNA.

Step 2

- If maternal **HBV DNA is >20,000 IU/mL**, refer pregnant patient to a specialist for evaluation and possible antiviral treatment. The American Association for the Study of Liver Disease (AASLD) recommends **antiviral therapy for pregnant women with HBV DNA levels >200,000 IU/mL**.

Step 3

- Provide a copy of the **original laboratory** report indicating the pregnant patient's HBsAg-positive status to the hospital or birthing facility where the delivery is planned and the infant's pediatrician.

Step 4

- Provide information concerning HBV to mother that discusses:

⇒ The potential use of antiviral therapy during pregnancy to prevent transmission of the virus. Refer to a specialist for medical management and counseling even if the HBV DNA is below 20,000 IU/mL.

⇒ The importance of prophylaxis for their infant (Hepatitis B vaccine and HBIG within 12 hours of birth), completing the vaccine series, and post-vaccination serology testing.

⇒ Breastfeeding is safe.

⇒ Screening and vaccination for all household and sexual contacts.

Additional Resources

- Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Vaccine Preventable Disease Control Program Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Unit: www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/ip/perinatalhepb/index.htm
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): <https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hbv/perinatalxmtn.htm>
- California Department of Public Health: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/disease.aspx>