Hepatitis B Vaccine Post-Exposure Indications

Recommended and provided free to the following groups:

- Infant born to known HBsAg+ mother: Give HBlg and hepatitis B vaccine at birth.  

- Infant born to a mother who is at high risk for hepatitis B infection (intravenous drug use or sex trade work) and her infectious status at delivery is unknown or negative (possible window period): Give HBlg and hepatitis B vaccine at birth.  

- Infant born to a mother who has risk factors (other than IDU and/or STW) for hepatitis B infection and her infectious status at delivery is unknown or negative (possible window period): Give hepatitis B vaccine at birth.  

- Infant whose father or other primary caregiver or household contact has chronic hepatitis B infection: Give hepatitis B vaccine at birth.  

- Infants from birth to less than 12 months of age if father or other primary caregivers are at high risk for hepatitis B and their infectious status is unknown or negative (possible window period): Give hepatitis B vaccine at birth.  

- Infant less than 12 months of age whose mother has acute hepatitis B.  

- Household contacts (including infants) of acute case or chronic carrier.  

- Sex with a person who has acute or chronic hepatitis B infection.  

- Percutaneous or mucosal exposure in the community (e.g. sexual assault, needle sticks) and household contacts with percutaneous or mucosal exposure (e.g., sharing of toothbrushes or razors) of acute or chronic hepatitis B infection.  

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A Post-vaccination testing (HBsAg and anti-HBs) of infants must be performed 1 month after completion of the hepatitis B vaccine series. If HBsAg is found, the infant is likely to become a chronic carrier. If the infant is negative for HBsAg and anti-HBs, a 2nd series of hepatitis B vaccine should be given and serological testing repeated 1 month post-series (see hepatitis B vaccine pages for dosage and schedules).  

B Refer to Hepatitis B Post-Exposure Prophylaxis to assess need for HBlg and hepatitis B vaccine.  

C Post-vaccination testing should be performed at 1 month after completion of the hepatitis B vaccine series for steady sexual partners of HBV chronic carriers, household contacts of acute and chronic carriers, sexual assault victims and those with percutaneous or mucosal exposures.  

D For steady long-term sexual partners of chronic HBV carriers, test for HBsAg, anti-HBc and anti-HBs prior to administering HBlg. If the client is susceptible to HBV, give HBlg as soon as possible and no later than 14 days of last sexual exposure.