

PROTECT YOUR BABY

PERINATAL HEPATITIS B INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

WHAT IS HEPATITIS B?

Hepatitis B is a liver infection caused by the Hepatitis B virus (HBV). Hepatitis B can range from a mild illness lasting a few weeks to a serious, lifelong condition. Left untreated, about 1 in 4 children who have chronic hepatitis B will eventually die of health problems related to their infection such as liver damage, liver disease, or liver cancer.

HOW IS HEPATITIS B SPREAD?

- ✓ An infected mother passes to her baby vaginally or c-section.
- ✓ Sex with an infected person.
- ✓ Direct contact with an infected person where blood is passed through breaks in skin or soft tissue, such as the nose, mouth, eyes.

HOW CAN I PROTECT MY BABY? VACCINATE!

The vaccine is usually given as 3 or 4 shots, depending on your baby's birthweight and the vaccine brand. Ask your doctor or nurse when your baby needs to come back for the next shot in the series. It is important to complete the vaccine series. The vaccine is safe and getting all the shots will provide **95% effectiveness** in preventing hepatitis B.

- ✓ **Birth dose:** Your baby should get the first shot of the hepatitis B vaccine within **24 hours of birth**.
- ✓ **Second dose:** The next shot of the hepatitis B vaccine is usually given at **1 to 2 months of age**.
- ✓ **Third dose:** The last shot is given between **6 months and 18 months of age**.

POST VACCINATION SEROLOGIC TESTING (PVST)

Post vaccination serologic testing (PVST) is recommended for infants born to women with hepatitis B infection. **Serologic testing confirms whether the child has developed immunity or has been infected with HBV.** PVST should include testing for hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) and hepatitis B surface antibody (anti-HBs). PVST should occur between **9-12 months of age** or 1-2 months after completion of the vaccine series, if the series is delayed.

