



Hepatitis B pathway for babies born to Hepatitis B positive mothers-Quality Improvement Project

The quality improvement project for the Hepatitis B pathway for babies born to Hepatitis B positive mothers aims to significantly improve the care and services for pregnant women living with hepatitis B and their babies.

The new pathway guidance and aid memoire for GP practices/nurses is available on the links below, to download for reference. The start date for the new pathway is April 2021 and the main change for practices is to offer the Dried Blood Spot (DBS) testing at 12 months, alongside the final Hepatitis B vaccination (and other routine immunisations) and send off to PHE Colindale. This avoids the parents having to travel to hospital outpatients for the blood test with their infant and ensures the results are returned from PHE Colindale to the GP and local CHIS (Child Health Information Service).

The resources give health professionals a step-by-step guide to the care pathways, from screening to completion of the vaccination schedule at 12 months. It includes information on:

- the clinical picture and transmission of hepatitis B
- the global elimination strategy
- surveillance of the virus
- screening and care in pregnancy for women living with hepatitis B and their babies
- women who decline testing
- the immunisation schedules
- missed vaccination

CHIS will send a reminder letter to practices to schedule the 4-week Hepatitis B vaccination, the routine 8,12- and 16-week immunisations alongside the scheduling for the 12-month Hepatitis B dose and surface antigen (HBsAg) blood test.

CHIS will:

- enclose/attach to the reminder the aide memoire for primary care staff https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/736036/HepB_babies_aide_memoire_.pdf
- schedule a paper/email reminder to the practice when the infant is 11 months old that they need to arrange an appointment for the 12-months dose and

blood test, preferably by DBS, to exclude infection and send the practice the dried blood spot kit, for taking the sample, with instructions.

- include in the text of the reminder that: – the priority with the blood test is to exclude hepatitis B virus infection (rather than check for immunity). The DBS sample by a heel-prick is strongly recommended as the preferred means of getting a blood sample in the practice – there is a webpage and video on taking a DBS sample <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/hepatitis-b-dried-blood-spot-dbs-testing-for-infants>
- https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/779444/PHE_national_dried_blood_spot_testing_for_babies_born_to_hepatitisb_infected_mothers.pdf
- hepatitis B vaccine should be given at the same appointment as the DBS blood alongside other routine immunisations.

Further information can be found on the following links:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/958428/PHE_11596_Hep_B_guidance_10.pdf

[Hepatitis B: screening and care in pregnancy and protecting your baby by vaccination - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/hepatitis-b-screening-and-care-in-pregnancy-and-protecting-your-baby-by-vaccination)