Admission Orders for Labor & Delivery and Newborn Units to Prevent Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) Transmission

The guidelines in this 2-page document were developed to help hospitals establish policies and standing orders in their labor and delivery and newborn units.

During 2005, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) published updated recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) for prevention of hepatitis B virus (HBV) infections in children which includes the recommendation to administer hepatitis B vaccine to all newborns before hospital discharge. The American Academy of Pediatrics, American Academy of Family Physicians, and American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists have all endorsed the birth dose recommendation. To obtain a copy, go to www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/tr/tr5416.pdf.

To protect infants from HBV infection, CDC recommends that all delivery hospitals institute standing orders or admission orders, and protocols to ensure healthcare professionals do the following:

1. Perform HBsAg testing ASAP on women who do not have a copy of their original HBsAg lab report to ensure that the correct serologic test was ordered and that it was ordered during this pregnancy.
2. If the laboratory test indicates the mother’s HBsAg status and the newborn’s birth weight. If the newborn weighs less than 2 kg, see the descriptions below and footnotes 2, 5, 6.
3. If the nursery does not receive the report of the mother’s HBsAg test result is
4. Note the serologic test result to verify that the correct test (i.e., HBsAg) was performed and to verify that the testing date was during this pregnancy not a previous one. Do not rely on a handwritten or transcribed HBsAg test result!
5. Verify when the mother’s HBsAg result will be available and that the nurse obtains the report of the mother’s HBsAg test result ASAP.
6. Confirm that the laboratory has received blood for the mother’s HBsAg test.
7. If the nursery does not receive the report of the mother’s HBsAg test at the expected time, call the laboratory for the result.
8. If the laboratory test indicates the mother’s HBsAg test result is positive, do the following:
   a. Administer hepatitis B immune globulin (HBIG 0.5 mL, IM) to the newborn ASAP. (Hepatitis B vaccine should have been given within 12 hours of birth.)

Admission orders / procedures for ALL newborns

1. Review a copy of the mother’s original HBsAg lab report to ensure that the correct serologic test was ordered and that it was ordered during this pregnancy.
2. Document the hepatitis B vaccine dose in the newborn’s medical record, including date, time, site of administration, and lot number.
3. Give the mother an immunization record card that includes the hepatitis B vaccination date. Explain the need for the complete hepatitis B vaccine series to protect her baby. Remind her to bring the card with her each time her baby sees a provider.

Admission orders / procedures for newborns of mothers with unknown HBsAg status, do the following:

1. Administer single-antigen hepatitis B vaccine (0.5 mL, IM) before hospital discharge to all newborns before hospital discharge weighing 2 kg or more at birth.3,4
2. Document the hepatitis B vaccine dose in the newborn’s medical record, including date, time, site of administration, and lot number.
3. Give the mother an immunization record card that includes the hepatitis B vaccination date. Explain the need for the complete hepatitis B vaccine series to protect her baby. Remind her to bring the card with her each time her baby sees a provider.

Admission orders / procedures for newborns of HBsAg-negative mothers

1. Administer single-antigen hepatitis B vaccine (0.5 mL, IM) before hospital discharge to all newborns weighing 2 kg or more at birth.3,4
2. Document the hepatitis B vaccine dose in the newborn’s medical record, including date, time, site of administration, and lot number.
3. Give the mother an immunization record card that includes the hepatitis B vaccination date. Explain the need for the complete hepatitis B vaccine series to protect her baby. Remind her to bring the card with her each time her baby sees a provider.

For pregnant women who have a HBsAg lab report included in their prenatal records, do the following:

1. Examine a copy of the original laboratory report of the pregnant woman’s HBsAg test result to verify that the correct test (i.e., HBsAg) was performed and that the testing date was during this pregnancy not a previous one. Do not rely on a handwritten or transcribed HBsAg test result!
2. Place a copy of the original HBsAg lab report into (1) the pregnant woman’s L&D record and (2) the infant’s hospital record.
3. If the pregnant woman is HBsAg positive, alert the nursing staff that the newborn is at risk and will need postexposure prophylaxis and hepatitis B vaccine series to protect her baby.
4. Give the mother an immunization record card that includes the hepatitis B vaccination date. Explain the need for the complete hepatitis B vaccine series to protect her baby. Remind her to bring the card with her each time her baby sees a provider.
5. Document the hepatitis B vaccine dose in the newborn’s medical record, including date, time, site of administration, and lot number.
6. If the nursery does not receive the report of the mother’s HBsAg test result ASAP.
7. If the laboratory test indicates the mother’s HBsAg test result is positive, do the following:
   a. Administer hepatitis B immune globulin (HBIG 0.5 mL, IM) to the newborn ASAP. (Hepatitis B vaccine should have been given within 12 hours of birth.)

For pregnant women who do not have an HBsAg lab report in their prenatal records, do the following:

1. Perform HBsAg testing ASAP on women who do not have a copy of an original HBsAg laboratory report from the current pregnancy included in their prenatal record.
2. Instruct the lab to call L&D and the nursery with the newly obtained HBsAg test result ASAP.

(continued on next page)
b. Document the HBIG dose appropriately in the newborn’s medical record. There is little benefit in giving HBIG if more than 7 days have elapsed since birth.

c. Alert the mother’s and newborn’s physician(s) of the test result.

d. Follow the instructions below “For newborns of HBsAg-positive mothers,” steps 3–7.

8. If the newborn must be discharged before the mother’s HBsAg result is known:
   a. Document contact information for the parents (e.g., addresses, telephone numbers, emergency contacts) in case further treatment is needed.
   b. Obtain the name, address, and phone number of the mother’s and the newborn’s healthcare providers.
   c. Notify the mother’s and newborn’s healthcare providers that the mother’s HBsAg test result is pending.

For newborns of HBsAg-positive mothers
1. Administer HBIG (0.5 mL, IM) and single-antigen hepatitis B vaccine (0.5 mL, IM) at separate injection sites within 12 hours of birth.

2. Document the hepatitis B vaccine and HBIG dose in the newborn’s medical record, including date, time, site of administration, and lot number.

3. Give the mother an immunization record card that includes the hepatitis B vaccination and HBIG dates. Explain the need for the complete hepatitis B vaccine series to protect her baby. Remind her to bring the card with her each time her baby sees a provider.

4. Notify the local or state health department of the infant’s birth and the date and time of administration of HBIG and hepatitis B vaccine doses.

5. Obtain the name, address, and phone number of the newborn’s primary care provider.

6. Notify the provider of the newborn’s birth, the date and time of HBIG and hepatitis B vaccine doses administered, and the importance of additional on-time vaccination and postvaccination testing of the infant for HBsAg and antibody to HBsAg after completion of the hepatitis B vaccine series.

7. Provide advice to the mother. Tell her the following:
   a. That she may breast-feed her infant upon delivery, even before hepatitis B vaccine and HBIG are given;
   b. That it is critical for her infant to complete the full hepatitis B vaccine series on the recommended schedule;
   c. That blood will need to be drawn from the infant after completion of at least 3 doses of the hepatitis B vaccine series at age 9–18 months (usually done at a well-child visit) to determine if the infant developed a protective immune response to vaccination or needs additional management;
   d. About modes of HBV transmission and the need for testing and vaccination of susceptible household, sexual, and needle-sharing contacts;
   e. That she needs to have a medical evaluation for chronic hepatitis B, including an assessment of whether she is eligible for antiviral treatment.

Footnotes
1. Be sure the correct test for HBsAg (hepatitis B surface antigen) was/is ordered. The HBsAg test should not be confused with other hepatitis B serologic tests, including antibody to HBsAg (anti-HBs or HBsAb) and antibody to hepatitis B core antigen (anti-HBc or HBcAb).

2. Infants weighing less than 2 kg at birth and whose mothers are documented to be HBsAg negative should receive the first dose of vaccine 1 month after birth or at hospital discharge, whichever comes first. The mother’s HBsAg test result must be part of the infant’s medical record.

3. Federal law requires that you give parents a Hepatitis B Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) before vaccine administration. To obtain a VIS, download it from the IAC website at www.immunize.org/vis or call your state health department.

4. According to the CDC recommendations, exceptions to administering the birth dose of hepatitis B vaccine are allowed on a case-by-case basis and only in rare circumstances. If a birth dose is not administered, a copy of the mother’s negative HBsAg test result from the current pregnancy must be placed in the infant’s medical record and the attending physician must write a specific order directing staff not to administer the birth dose in the hospital. Infants who do not receive the first dose of hepatitis B vaccine before hospital discharge should receive the first dose no later than age 2 months.

5. An infant weighing less than 2 kg whose mother’s HBsAg status is unknown should receive HBIG and hepatitis B vaccine within 12 hours of birth. Do not count the hepatitis B vaccine dose as the first dose in the vaccine series. Reinitiate the full hepatitis B vaccine series at age 1–2 months.

6. An infant weighing less than 2 kg whose mother is HBsAg positive should receive the first dose of hepatitis B vaccine and HBIG within 12 hours of birth. Do not count the hepatitis B vaccine dose as the first dose in the vaccine series. Reinitiate the full hepatitis B vaccine series at age 1–2 months.

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**SAMPLE TEXT**

**Admission Order for Routine Newborn Hepatitis B Vaccination**
(to include in the standard admission orders)

- **Hepatitis B Vaccine (RECOMBIVAX HB or Engerix-B) IM**
  ONE TIME, Intramuscular, Dose: 0.5 mL. Give within 12 hours of birth to all infants who weigh 2 kg (4.4 lb) or more. Bathe the newborn, washing the site well with soap and water, cleanse the injection site with alcohol prior to IM administration. Obtain verbal consent from the parent prior to administration. Give the hepatitis B Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) to the parent and document the vaccine’s administration in the hospital medical record. If the parent is unwilling to give verbal consent, notify physician by morning rounds or prior to 12 hours of age.