




## Who should be screened for hepatitis B?

-  All adults 18 years and older once in their lifetime
-  Anyone who wants to be screened
-  Pregnant Persons (\*see Key Considerations)

## What tests should be run?

- **The triple panel hepatitis B test should be used to screen everyone for HBV.**
  - Hepatitis B Surface Antigen (HBsAg)
  - Hepatitis B Surface Antibody (HbsAb/anti-HBs)
  - Hepatitis B Core Antibody Total (HBcAb/total anti-HBc/IgG anti-HBc)\*\*

## Vaccination and Screening in Same Visit

If you are able to provide both screening and vaccination, the CDC recommends the following:

1. Collect blood first, as vaccinating before drawing blood can lead to a false positive.
2. After blood draw, offer HBV vaccine as per CDC recommendations at same visit.

\*\* Please note that core antibody total (IgG anti-HBc) and core antibody IgM (IgM anti-HBc) are different tests. IgM anti-HBc **should not** be used as a routine test and only be used to rule out an acute infection.

## Billing and Insurance

The below codes are not an exhaustive list. Please refer to CMS for information on how to properly code the tests needed for your patient.

### Codes for non-pregnant adolescents/adults at high-risk

- ICD-10:** Z11.59 Encounter for screening for other viral diseases **AND/OR**
- ICD-10:** Z11.3 Encounter for screening for infections with a predominantly sexual mode of transmission **AND/OR**
- ICD-10:** Z72.89 Other problems related to lifestyle **AND/OR**
- ICD-10:** Z00 Encounter for general exam without complaint, suspected or reported diagnosis
- HCPCS Level II Code:** G0499 Hepatitis B screening in non-pregnant, high-risk individual - includes HBsAg followed by a neutralizing confirmatory test for initially reactive results, and antibodies to HBsAg (anti-HBs, anti-HBc)

### Codes for pregnant adolescents/adults at high-risk

- Z34.00 – Encounter for supervision of normal first pregnancy, unspecified trimester
- Z34.80 – Encounter for supervision of other normal pregnancy, unspecified trimester
- Z34.90 – Encounter for supervision of normal pregnancy, unspecified, unspecified trimester
- O09.90 – Supervision of high risk pregnancy, unspecified, unspecified trimester

**NOTE:** Medicare requires both Z11.59 and a high risk code in addition to the HCPCS code.

Hepatitis B screening should be covered with no cost-shares for all insured adults at high-risk for hepatitis B with commercial insurance, Medicare, and states with expanded Medicaid. Individuals at low risk or identified risk-factors may have to pay out of pocket for some or all of the screening tests based upon their insurance.



**Some patients may not understand the importance of hepatitis B testing. The following facts can be used to educate patients.**

- Hepatitis B rarely has symptoms. Most adults in the U.S. are unaware of how they were exposed to the virus.
- More than 60% of U.S. infected adults are unaware that they are living with hepatitis B.
- Hepatitis B is up to 100 times more infectious than HIV.
- Hepatitis B screening and linkage to care (including oral therapy) can help prevent serious liver disease and liver cancer.

## Key Considerations

### \* Pregnancy

Pregnant persons are recommended for HBV screening with the following guidance:

- **Pregnant persons with a history of appropriately timed triple panel screening and without subsequent risk for exposure to HBV (i.e., no new HBV exposures since triple panel screening) only need HBsAg screening**
- HBV screening for all pregnant persons during each pregnancy, preferably in the first trimester, **regardless of vaccination status or history of testing**

## Vaccination/Screening

There is no need to wait for test results before vaccinating. However, this is dependent upon the populations you are serving.

Vaccination should not be a barrier to screening, and screening should not be a barrier to vaccination.

## ◆ Interpreting Hepatitis B Serology

HBsAg	Total Anti-HBc	Anti-HBs	Possible Interpretation	Management	HepB Vaccination needed?
+	+	-/+	Current infection	Refer for management of active HBV <i>*Refer household and sexual contacts for HBV screening and vaccination</i>	NO
-	+	+	Prior infection with immune control	Document “risk of reactivation with immunosuppressive medications” in health record	NO
-	+	-	Prior infection or Window period or Occult infection	Refer to hepatologist, gastroenterologist, infectious disease provider, or hepatitis B specialist for further evaluation; educate about reactivation as needed	NO
-	-	+	Immune from prior vaccination	No further action. Protected for life from chronic HBV infection.	NO
-	-	-	Susceptible	Vaccinate unless <b>documented</b> receipt of full vaccine series.	YES

*This chart was modified by Camilla Graham, MD, MPH and HBF’s Medical Advisors from the “Hepatitis B Management: Simplified Guidance for the Primary Care Provider” developed by the Hepatitis B Primary Care Workgroup and produced in collaboration with the University of Washington Infectious Diseases Education & Assessment (IDEA) program. Visit [www.hepatitisb.uw.edu](http://www.hepatitisb.uw.edu) to view the full guidance.*

## ◆ Counseling HBsAg Positive Patients

If a patient tests positive for hepatitis B, providers should take the following steps:

1. **Schedule** patient to come back in 6 months to determine if infection is acute or chronic.
2. **Educate** patient on how to maintain a healthy liver, including avoiding alcohol and smoking, and how to prevent transmission to loved ones (e.g. testing of household members, vaccination, etc.). Multi-lingual resources can be found on the Hepatitis B Foundation website - [www.hepb.org](http://www.hepb.org).
3. **Prepare** patient for follow up by explaining what additional tests might be needed and how often they will need to see a provider depending upon their diagnosis.
4. **Assure** patient that they can live a long, healthy life with proper management, and treatment if needed.

## ◆ Additional Resources



CDC’s Adult HBV Screening and Testing Recommendation



Hep B Online: HBV Screening, Testing, and Management for Primary Care



CDC’s Adult HBV Vaccination Recommendation

For more information about screening for hepatitis B, visit [CDC.gov/hepatitis-B/hcp/diagnosis/testing](http://CDC.gov/hepatitis-B/hcp/diagnosis/testing) or [www.hepb.org](http://www.hepb.org).