

Delivering the Hepatitis Birth Dose: Implementing the new WHO Recommendations

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WHO Position Paper: Hepatitis B Vaccines 2009

- Perinatal transmission is an important cause of chronic hepatitis B globally-
- All infants should receive their first dose of hepatitis B vaccine as soon as possible after birth, preferably within 24 hours.
- Delivery of hepatitis B vaccine within 24 hours of birth should be a performance indicator for all immunization programmes
- Strategies to prevent perinatal transmission

Goals for Wider Adoption of a Birth Dose of Hepatitis B Vaccine

- Maximize benefits of vaccination
- Achieve goals in hepatitis B control/elimination
- Integrate with non-traditional partners
 - Align with GIVS
 - Integrate with other WHO initiatives
 - ◆ Making Pregnancy Safer
 - ◆ Other

Proportional Reduction in HBV-related Deaths With and Without HepB Birth Dose

Table 4 Reduction in future hepatitis B-related deaths with 90% complete hepatitis B vaccination series coverage, with and without administration of a birth dose of vaccine: hepatitis B disease burden model

Region	Number of deaths in 2000 birth cohort without vaccination	Proportional reduction in deaths (%)		
		no birth dose	50% Birth dose ^a	90% Birth dose ^a
Africa	276 000	70	78	84
Americas	28 000	66	76	84
Eastern Mediterranean	96 000	74	80	84
Europe	56 000	72	79	84
Southeast Asia	368 000	71	78	84
Western Pacific	581 000	63	74	83
Global	1 405 000	68	77	84

^a Proportion of the vaccinated cohort receiving the first dose of vaccine within 24 h of birth.

Source: Goldstein et al, JGIM, 2005

Implementation of HepB in immunization schedules in countries, by level of chronic HBV infection endemicity, 2006

Historic Chronic HBV Infection Endemicity	No. children born*	No. countries	No. (%) countries with hepatitis B vaccine in schedule	No. (%) countries with hepatitis B vaccine birth dose in schedule
High ($\geq 8\%$ prevalence)	62,658,651	87	73 (84%)	38 (44%)
Intermediate (2-8% prevalence)	58,353,308	62	56 (90%)	33 (53%)
Low (<2% prevalence)	14,004,025	44	34 (77%)	10 (23%)
Total	135,015,984	193	163 (84%)	81 (42%)

Align with Global Immunization Vision and Strategy

- To immunize more people against more diseases;
 - Ensure unreached are reached
 - Expand beyond traditional target groups
- To integrate immunization with other critical health interventions;
 - Build on health system development
 - Develop integrated interventions
 - Maximize synergy



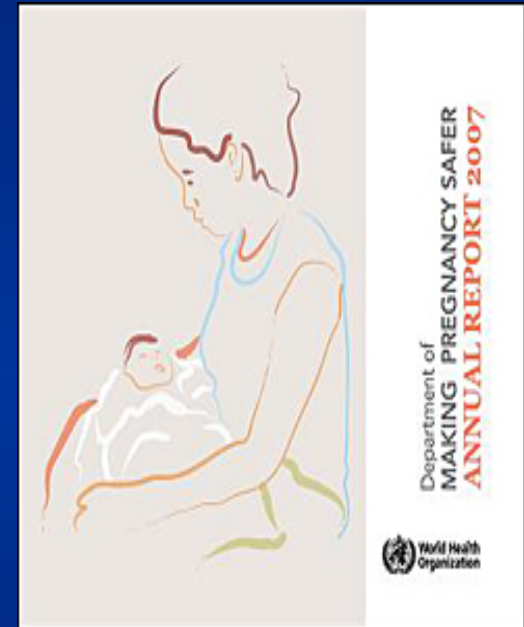
Integrate with Non-traditional Partners

- GIVS Integration Opportunities
 - Address need for coordination between maternity (MCH) and immunization (EPI) staff
 - Integrate hepB birth dose with other essential perinatal interventions (perinatal HIV prevention, umbilical cord care, etc.)



Build on Other WHO Initiatives: Making Pregnancy Safer

- Goal for every birth attended by skilled health worker
- Integrate hepB birth vaccination with other services
- Opportunity to address in-facility births and home deliveries



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