

Searching for the Next Crisis: Universal Testing for Hepatitis B

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The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has issued new recommendations advising that all adults should be screened for Hepatitis B infection at least once in their lifetime, and some should be periodically testing throughout their lifetime.

According to the CDC, during the year 2020, 2157 new acute cases of hepatitis B were reported, and the CDC estimated that there were a total of 14,000 acute infections (most were unreported).¹ According to the United States Census Bureau, there are currently 334,512,000 people living in the U.S.² This means that the total estimated acute infection rate in the U.S., according to CDC data, is 0.000041852%. Hardly an epidemic.

According to the CDC, the most common means for becoming infected are:³

- Birth (if a woman has hepatitis B, her baby can become infected)
- Sharing items such as razors or toothbrushes with an infected person
- Contact with the blood or open sores of an infected person
- Sex with an infected partner
- Sharing needles, syringes, or other drug-injection equipment
- Exposure to blood from needlesticks or other sharp instruments

Those at highest risk are drug addicts who share needles and people who have multiple sex partners.

Hepatitis B surface antigens (HBsAg) are detectable in an infected person's blood between one and nine weeks after exposure, and almost half of patients will no longer be contagious within seven weeks after onset of symptoms. Many people never experience symptoms. Most adults recover, even if they have severe symptoms; are considered non-contagious after a few months, and won't contract Hepatitis B again.⁴ Some people do suffer with chronic infection, and may experience liver scarring (cirrhosis), liver cancer, and death. According to death certificates, about 1800 people die from hepatitis B annually in the U.S.⁵ This means the death rate from hepatitis B in the U.S. is 0.000000538%.

Bottom line: Hepatitis B is a relatively rare disease in the U.S., and death from it is even more rare.

So why is the CDC promoting universal testing for a disease that almost all of us have little risk of contracting? The answer lies in the new guidelines. According to the CDC, adults have "suboptimal" Hepatitis B vaccine uptake.

The guidelines include these statements:

“A one-time HBV screening of adults would be complementary to the 2022 Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendation to vaccinate all adults ages 19-59 years for HBV infection because screening establishes any history of infection, and vaccination protects from future infection...”

“Women should be tested in the first trimester of each pregnancy “regardless of vaccination status or a history of testing”

Once an adult has been tested, any who have not completed a vaccine series for hepatitis B should be offered vaccination.

The 2023 adult immunization schedule now includes HBV vaccination, and “Vaccination status should be clearly documented in the medical record.”⁶

Universal HBV screening is designed to find those who have not been vaccinated and make sure that they get vaccinated. The results of screening tests and HBV vaccine status will be added to patients’ medical records, along with COVID vaccine status and lots of other information the medical system is collecting about Americans.

What might be done with this information? The CDC, in conjunction with public health departments could declare that Hepatitis B is a threat to public health and that all adults will be required to be vaccinated. It is already recommended that all babies be given a Hepatitis B vaccine within hours of birth – apparently sexual promiscuity and needle sharing were a problem in hospital nurseries that had to be addressed. But millions of adults who were born long before hepatitis B was added to the vaccine schedule for infants are a gold mine for vaccine makers and an opportunity for the CDC to use this as an excuse for more baseless mandates.

The vaccine makers and their government partners will not be happy until all humans are injected with their poisonous products multiple times per year. They thought that COVID vaccines would pave the way for this to take place, which fortunately for us has not worked out as planned. But there are billions, if not trillions of dollars of sales to be had, and these opportunistic profiteers and their government partners are not going to give this potential revenue and power up without a fight.

¹ Centers for Disease Control. Hepatitis B Surveillance 2020.
<https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/statistics/2020surveillance/hepatitis-b.htm>

² <https://www.census.gov/popclock/>

³ <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/vis-statements/hep-b.html>

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[https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hbv/hbvfaq.htm#:~:text=About%20half%20of%20patients%20will,onset%20of%20symptoms%20\(12\).](https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hbv/hbvfaq.htm#:~:text=About%20half%20of%20patients%20will,onset%20of%20symptoms%20(12).)

⁵ Bixler D, Zhong Y, Ly KN et al. “Mortality Among Patients With Chronic Hepatitis B Infection: The Chronic Hepatitis Cohort Study (CHeCS).” *Clin Infect Dis* 2019 Mar;68(6):956-963

⁶ Connors EE, Panagiotakopoulos L, Hofmeister MG et al. "Screening and Testing for Hepatitis B Virus Infection: CDC Recommendations – United States 2023." *MMWR* 2023 Mar;72(1):1-25