



National Task Force for Hepatitis B
Focus on Asian and Pacific Islander Americans
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National Task Force for Hepatitis B
Focus on Asian & Pacific Islander Americans
Official Screening Recommendations

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After review of available recent literatures, consultations with several prominent leaders in many national as well as community hepatitis B organizations, the following guidelines are recommended for screening of hepatitis B. The guidelines were reviewed also by Dr. Anna Lok, Dr. Jay Hoofnagle, Ms. Ginny Warren MPH, Dr. Gary Euler and Dr. Son Do

The most efficient and reasonably cost effective method to screen for hepatitis B serological markers among API community populations should include testing for both hepatitis B surface antigen and hepatitis B surface antibody (HBsAg and anti-HBs). This provides information about infection status as well as immunity.

Advantages

- Identifies infected individuals (acute or chronic)
- Anti HBs identifies those who are immune (secondary to vaccination or past infection)

Disadvantages

- Anti-HBs titer may drop to undetectable levels over time.
- Anti HBs response to HepB series is reduced in persons who are over 40 yrs of age (smokers, obese, or male), or otherwise immuno-compromised.
- Anti-HBc test results are needed to distinguish between immunity due to vaccination and immunity due to past infection.

Anti-HBc test results are needed to identify patients who are immune due to past infection, but whose anti-HBs levels have decreased to undetectable levels.

The Task Force believes this recommendation will provide some guidance for community screening projects.

Sincerely,

Son Do, MD
Chairman

Asian Liver Center, Stanford-Asian Pacific Health Center, San Diego-CDC, Atlanta-Hepatitis B Foundation, PA-Hepatitis Foundation International, MD-Hepatitis B Initiative-MD-Illinois Health Education Consortium-Immunization ActionCoalition-Immunization Coalition, Los Angeles-SouthCarolina Department of Health-University of Washington-Vietnamese Community Health Promotion Project, UCSF-