

Preventing Perinatal Hepatitis B Virus Transmission:

# A Guide for Introducing and Strengthening Hepatitis B Birth Dose Vaccination



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**World Health  
Organization**

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# About this guide

This document is intended for use by national immunization programme managers, maternal neonatal and child health (MNCH) professionals, and immunization partners involved with operationalizing hepatitis B birth dose (HepB-BD) introduction or strengthening an existing HepB-BD programme. The document also provides information on the practicality of HepB-BD, to help policy-makers, partners and managers who are considering introduction of HepB-BD into an immunization schedule.

General guidance about planning the introduction of a vaccine into a national immunization programme is provided in the document *Principles and considerations for adding a vaccine to a national immunization programme: from decision to implementation and monitoring* published by WHO in 2014 and available at [http://www.who.int/immunization/programmes\\_systems/policies\\_strategies/vaccine\\_intro\\_resources/nvi\\_guidelines/en/](http://www.who.int/immunization/programmes_systems/policies_strategies/vaccine_intro_resources/nvi_guidelines/en/).

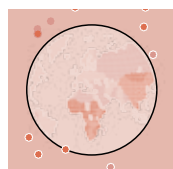
However, as hepatitis B birth dose is not an entirely new vaccine, but rather a new delivery strategy for a vaccine already included in the routine schedule, this guide will focus on the unique aspects and programmatic features of administering hepatitis B vaccine as a birth dose.

## **The specific objectives of this guide are:**

- to provide an overview of WHO recommendations, best practices, technical justification and strategic approaches relating to providing hepatitis B birth dose to newborns.
- to highlight the unique operational requirements for introducing a vaccination that should be delivered as soon after birth as possible, preferably within 24 hours.
- to inform the policy discussions and operational strategies for the introduction of hepatitis B birth dose vaccination into a national immunization programme.

# Contents

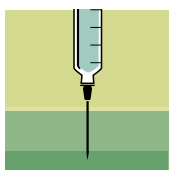
<b>Acknowledgements</b> .....	<b>II</b>
<b>Overview</b> .....	<b>III</b>
<b>Abbreviations &amp; acronyms</b> .....	<b>VI</b>
<b>Glossary</b> .....	<b>VII</b>



## Chapter 1

### The importance of hepatitis B birth dose vaccination

- A.** The virus – newborns have a high risk of infection ..... **1**
- B.** The vaccine – safe, effective and affordable ..... **2**
- C.** Global status of hepatitis B birth dose vaccination ..... **4**



## Chapter 2

### Vaccine administration essentials

- A.** Vaccine formulation, dosage, route and site of vaccination ..... **7**
- B.** Timing of administering the birth dose ..... **7**
- C.** Side-effects ..... **10**
- D.** Contraindications ..... **10**



## Chapter 3

### Service delivery – health-facility births

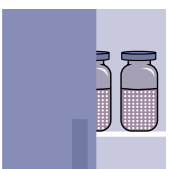
- A.** Integrate birth dose vaccination with newborn care policies and practice ..... **13**
- B.** Assign responsibility for administering the birth dose ..... **15**
- C.** Keep a stock of vaccine near delivery ward ..... **18**
- D.** Explore options for health facilities lacking cold chain ..... **18**
- E.** Include private sector in birth dose vaccination ..... **18**



## Chapter 4

### Service delivery – home births

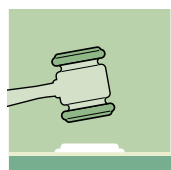
- A.** Bringing the newborn to a health facility ..... **21**
- B.** Reaching the newborn at home ..... **22**



## Chapter 5

### Vaccine products and logistics

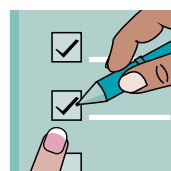
- A.** Products ..... **29**
- B.** Cost ..... **30**
- C.** Forecasting and supply ..... **32**
- D.** Handling and storage ..... **33**



## Chapter 6

### Policy and guidance

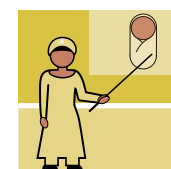
- A. Deciding to introduce birth dose ..... 37
- B. National birth dose policies ..... 38
- C. Local policies and procedures ..... 39
- D. Developing or adapting standards and guidance ..... 40



## Chapter 7

### Planning

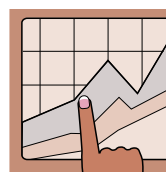
- A. Situation analysis ..... 43
- B. Coordination between EPI and MNCH ..... 43
- C. Detailed vaccine introduction plan ..... 44
- D. Costing ..... 47
- E. Strengthening routine immunization and MNCH services ..... 47



## Chapter 8

### Training and supervision

- A. Who to train? ..... 51
- B. Training topics and resources ..... 51
- C. Planning your training ..... 53
- D. Supervision ..... 57



## Chapter 9

### Monitoring vaccine coverage, impact and AEFI

- A. Recording, reporting and monitoring coverage ..... 60
- B. Recording and reporting in specific circumstances ..... 66
- C. Assessing programme implementation ..... 66
- D. Assessing programme impact (seroprevalence surveys) ..... 68
- E. Monitoring and investigating AEFI ..... 68



## Chapter 10

### Advocacy, communication, social mobilization ..... 73

- Annex 1:** How to perform a shake test ..... 78
- Annex 2:** CTC Infographic ..... 80
- Annex 3:** Example: Policy brief ..... 81
- Annex 4:** Situation analysis checklist ..... 84
- Annex 5:** Practices to improve coverage of birth-dose vaccine ..... 86
- Annex 6:** Health-facility hepatitis B birth dose supervisory checklist ..... 87
- Annex 7:** Example tally sheet with timely and total birth dose ..... 90
- Annex 8:** Example tally sheet with location of birth ..... 91
- Annex 9:** Example reporting form with number of vaccinated by location ..... 92
- Annex 10:** Key information on hepatitis B and HepB vaccine ..... 94

# Abbreviations & acronyms

<b>AEFI</b>	adverse event following immunization
<b>BCG</b>	Bacille Calmette-Guérin
<b>CHEW</b>	community health extension worker
<b>cMYP</b>	comprehensive multi-year plan
<b>CPAD</b>	compact pre-filled auto-disable device
<b>CTC</b>	controlled temperature chain
<b>DHS</b>	demographic and health survey
<b>DTP</b>	diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis vaccine
<b>EPI</b>	Expanded Programme on Immunization
<b>Gavi</b>	Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance
<b>HBsAg</b>	hepatitis B surface antigen
<b>HBeAg</b>	hepatitis B 'e' antigen
<b>HBV</b>	hepatitis B virus
<b>HepB</b>	hepatitis B vaccine
<b>HepB3</b>	hepatitis B vaccine third dose
<b>HepB-BD</b>	hepatitis B vaccine birth dose
<b>HEW</b>	health extension worker
<b>Hib</b>	<i>haemophilus influenzae</i> type B
<b>HIV</b>	human immunodeficiency virus
<b>IEC</b>	information, education and communication
<b>JRF</b>	Joint Reporting Form
<b>MICS</b>	multiple indicator cluster survey
<b>MNCH</b>	maternal neonatal and child health
<b>MDVP</b>	multi-dose vial policy
<b>NITAG</b>	national immunization technical advisory group

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