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Recommendations for Identification of Persons with Chronic Hepatitis B Virus Infection

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WHO SHOULD BE TESTED?	WHICH TEST(S)?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All pregnant women ▪ Persons with elevated ALT/AST of unknown etiology ▪ Persons who are the source of blood / body fluid exposures (e.g. needle stick, sexual assault) 	HBsAg
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Persons born outside the US in area of high or intermediate HBV prevalence ▪ US-born persons not vaccinated as infants, whose parents are from area of high HBV prevalence ▪ Injection drug users ▪ Men who have sex with men ▪ Infants born to HBsAg-positive mothers ▪ Household, needle-sharing, or sex contacts of persons known to be HBsAg-positive ▪ HIV-positive persons 	HBsAg, Anti-HBs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hemodialysis patients ▪ Persons about to undergo cytotoxic or immunosuppressive therapy ▪ Donors of blood, plasma, organs, tissue, or semen 	HBsAg, Anti-HBs, Anti-HBc

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

TABLE 3. Geographic regions* with hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) prevalence of $\geq 2\%$ [†]

Region*	HBsAg prevalence $\geq 2\%$
Africa	All countries
Asia [§]	All countries
Australia and South Pacific	All countries except Australia and New Zealand
Middle East	All countries except Cyprus and Israel
Eastern Europe	All countries except Hungary
Western Europe	Malta, Spain, and indigenous populations in Greenland
North America	Alaska Natives and indigenous populations in Northern Canada
Mexico and Central America	Guatemala and Honduras
South America	Ecuador, Guyana, Suriname, Venezuela, and Amazonian areas of Bolivia, Brazil, Columbia, and Peru
Caribbean	Antigua-Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Kitts-Nevis, St. Lucia, and Turks and Caicos Islands

* A complete list of countries in each region is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/travel/destinationList.htm>.

[†] Estimates of prevalence of HBsAg, a marker of chronic hepatitis B virus infection, are based on limited data and might not reflect current prevalence in countries that have implemented childhood hepatitis B vaccination. In addition, HBsAg prevalence might vary within countries by subpopulation and locality.

[§] Asia includes three regions: Southeast Asia, East Asia, and Northern Asia.

HBsAg = hepatitis B surface antigen (+) HBsAg represents ongoing HBV infection & infectivity
 Anti-HBs = hepatitis B surface antibody(+) Anti-HBs represents immunity to HBV (natural or vaccine-induced)
 Anti-HBc = hepatitis B core antibody (+) Anti-HBc represents natural infection with HBV (current or prior)

Note 1: Because some persons might have been infected with HBV before they received HBV vaccination, HBsAg testing is recommended **regardless of vaccination history**, for the following groups:

- Persons born outside the US, in regions of high or intermediate HBV prevalence
- US-born persons not vaccinated as infants, whose parents were born in regions of high HBV prevalence
- Persons who received HBV vaccination as adolescents or adults, after the initiation of risk behaviors such as sexual activity or injection drug use

Note 2: Persons with ongoing risk for HBV infection should receive the first dose of HBV vaccine at the same medical visit, after blood is drawn for testing.