



Hepatitis B Vaccine and Section 317 Immunization Program

Up to 2.2 million Americans and more than 240 million people worldwide are chronically infected with the hepatitis B virus (HBV), a disease that is silent and largely undiagnosed. Hepatitis B is the world's most common serious liver infection. It is the cause of up to 60% of primary liver cancers, which is the 2nd leading cause of cancer deaths worldwide. In the U.S., the incidence of primary liver cancer is increasing while most other cancer rates decline or stabilize. Yet, hepatitis B is entirely preventable - and an HBV vaccine exists. **The Hepatitis B Foundation and its partners support the 317 Coalition's FY 2017 recommendation to increase funding to \$650 million for the CDC's 317 Immunization Program to increase the use of the HBV vaccine in targeted high-risk populations.**

According to the CDC, hepatitis B is the deadliest vaccine-preventable disease in the world. The hepatitis B vaccine was designated as the 1st "anti-cancer vaccine" by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration because preventing hepatitis B infection will prevent primary liver cancer.

The HBV vaccine is recommended specifically for all infants and children up to 17 years by the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and the American Academy of Pediatrics. The CDC also recommends that all adults with diabetes be vaccinated, as well as other high-risk adults.

What is the Section 317 Immunization Grant Program?

The Section 317 program supports our nation's immunization infrastructure, providing funding to grantees in all 50 states, six large cities, and eight territories and former territories. It provides a safety net for vaccination to uninsured, low-income adults, including adults at high risk for HBV infection. The program also supports vaccine effectiveness studies, disease surveillance, outbreak detection and response, vaccine coverage assessment, vaccine safety and provider education programming.

Although funding for Section 317 was intended for adult vaccinations, it is now being redirected, severely limiting the availability of vaccines to protect vulnerable adults.

Vaccines purchased through the CDC's Section 317 Immunization Program have played a critical role towards addressing HBV prevention in high-risk uninsured and underinsured children and adults. Studies have shown that increases in Section 317 funding were significantly associated with higher rates of vaccination coverage.

The Hepatitis B Foundation and its partners recommend increased funding for Section 317 to ensure greater access to the HBV vaccine ... and to ultimately save more American lives from hepatitis B the deadliest vaccine-preventable disease in the world.

Who can be vaccinated with Section 317 vaccines?

Newborns receiving the birth dose of HBV vaccine prior to hospital discharge that are covered under "bundled delivery" or "global delivery package" that does not include this vaccine. (No routine services can be individually billed.)

Fully Insured infants of HBV- infected women and the household or sexual contacts of HBV-infected individuals.

Uninsured or underinsured adults.

Fully insured individuals seeking vaccines during public health response activities including:

- Outbreak response
- Post-exposure prophylaxis
- Disaster relief efforts
- Mass vaccination campaigns or exercises for public health preparedness
- Individuals in correctional facilities or jail