



B THE CHANGE

2024 Year in Review

Fighting for Hepatitis B Inclusion in Quality Measures

In May, HHS opened a public comment period for including viral hepatitis quality measures in the Medicaid Adult Core Set. Quality measures are tools used to measure different aspects of healthcare quality, such as processes, outcomes, patient experiences, and structures; in an effort to improve health outcomes. As a result of the Foundation's advocacy, HHS proposed the inclusion of three new hepatitis B-related screening quality measures, looking at screening rates for all adults, pregnant persons, and those experiencing opioid use disorder.

Paving the Way for Hepatitis B Rapid Tests

Reclassification of Hepatitis B Assay Devices

In October, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) asked for public comments on the reclassification of hepatitis B virus assay devices. Such a move would promote availability of point-of-care (POC) tests, which will increase the number of people with hepatitis B who are diagnosed and can access care and treatment, reducing deaths related to hepatitis B and liver cancer. The Foundation and Hep B United (HBU) led a sign-on letter that garnered support from 47 organizations including professional societies, community-based organizations, and industry partners.

RADx/ITAP

In collaboration with the FDA, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics (RADx) Tech program solicited proposals to accelerate the validation, authorization, and commercialization of point-of-care (POC) tests for hepatitis B virus surface antigen (HBsAg). Inclusion of hepatitis B tests in this rapid acceleration program will greatly lessen the time it will take for a point-of-care test to reach market in the United States. The Foundation has worked closely with the FDA and NIH to support their efforts by providing feedback and connecting them with providers who would benefit from a hepatitis B POC test.

B the Change Action Center



200

New Advocates
Subscribed



28

Congressional and
Federal Agency Visits



10

Public Comments
Submitted

Get Involved!

Join **B the Change** for advocacy updates and action alerts.
Questions? Contact us at advocate@hepb.org.

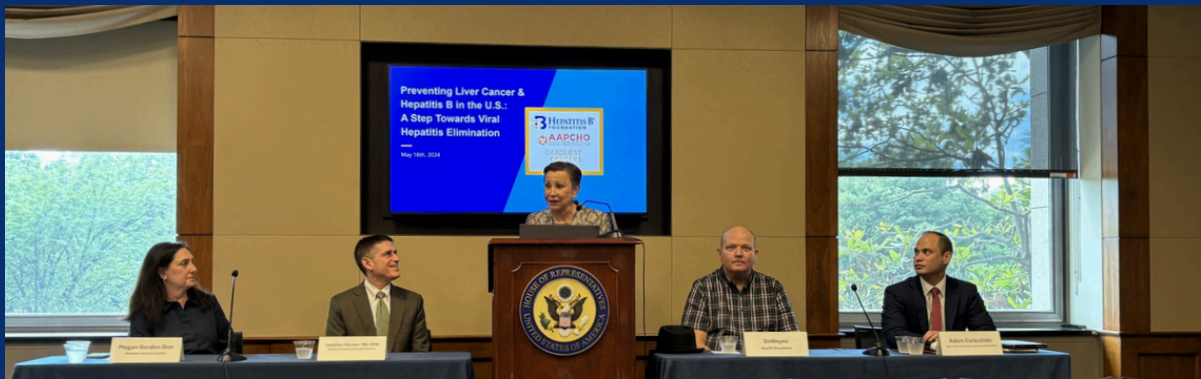


Storytelling as Advocacy

Binh, an energetic patient advocate and one of the Hepatitis B Foundation’s #just B Storytellers, spoke at an educational briefing held by Hep Free NYC and the New York City Council on March 5. The city’s Viral Hepatitis Initiative and Hepatitis Elimination Plan were on the agenda for the event, which was attended by more than 50 community members and several prominent City Council members. Nearly 250,000 people in NYC are living with chronic hepatitis B, at last count.

Engaging Congress for Hepatitis B Priorities

HBF engaged advocates in reaching out to their congress members to support increased federal funding for hepatitis B and liver cancer in fiscal year 2025 (FY2025). Although we are still waiting for the Senate’s FY25 bill, the House Appropriations Committee released its FY25 Labor-HHS bill that funds the health programs of HHS. The bill included all language that advocates requested, including the prioritization of vaccination and screening for hepatitis B under HRSA Health Centers, hepatitis prevention and elimination efforts under the CDC’s National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases and research toward better treatments and a cure for hepatitis B and liver cancer across the NIH.



Representative Nydia Velázquez (D-NY 7th District) speaks about the importance of liver cancer prevention at the Hepatitis B Foundation’s annual congressional briefing. She was joined by Jonathan Mermin, MD, MPH, (National Center for HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention, CDC), Megan Gordon Don (Deadliest Cancers Coalition), Adam Carbullido (Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations), and DeWayne (#justB Storyteller).

