Universal Adult Hepatitis B Vaccination Recommendation: Commitment to Prevention

National Adult and Influenza Immunization Summit
April 2022

What does this mean for communities?
The hepatitis B vaccine is now universally recommended for all adults aged 19-59, and adults 60 and older who have risk factors.

What this means...
• All adults aged 19-59 can receive the HBV vaccination with no cost-sharing.
• Financial and other systematic barriers to vaccine access will be eliminated for many adults.
• Access to the hepatitis B vaccine will increase; more providers will offer the vaccine, and it will be easier to get vaccinated.
• Health insurance coverage for the vaccine will improve.
• Progress toward our shared goal of eliminating viral hepatitis in the U.S. by 2030 will accelerate.
• Health disparities and new hepatitis B infections will be reduced.
**Educating the Community**

- Many opportunities, but many challenges
- Challenges:
  - Awareness is low amongst patients AND providers
  - Current adult hepatitis B programs are built on previous risk-based recommendations
  - Funding
  - Adult Immunization information infrastructure is lacking
  - COVID-19

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**Educating the Community**

- Opportunities:
  - COVID-19
  - Virtual Platforms
  - Many opportunities to collaborate with key stakeholders
    - Pharmacies
  - The implementation path has been paved by models
    - North East Medical Services
    - Hawai'i Health Department + Pharmacies
What the Community Needs You to Know

• Stigma & discrimination are persistent in communities impacted by hepatitis B
  ○ Takes the burden off of patient
  ○ Highlight that this is a routine immunization for ALL adults
  ○ The link between hepatitis B and liver cancer
  ○ Collaboration with key community groups for those at higher risk

• Reimbursement issues can be a challenge for providers
  ○ Pharmacies vs clinics
  ○ Harm reduction

• Be on the lookout for universal hepatitis B screening updates

• Educate other providers!
  ○ Most providers are unaware of the new recommendations
  ○ Primary care is critical to getting the word out

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Thank you!