

Regional Plan on Hepatitis B Control

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European Vaccine Action Plan 2016-2020

- Set regional goals for immunization and control of vaccine-preventable diseases:
 - Sustain polio-free status
 - Eliminate measles and rubella
 - Control hepatitis B infection
 - Meet regional vaccination coverage targets at all administrative levels throughout the Region
 - Make evidence-based decisions on the introduction of new vaccines
 - Achieve financial sustainability of national immunization programmes
- Proposed a set of actions to achieve the goals

Hepatitis B disease burden

WHO European Region

- 13 million people are chronically infected
- 60,000 deaths annually due to hepatitis B related liver cancer and cirrhosis
- Hep B epidemiology is diverse:
 - <1% HBsAg prevalence in North and Central European countries
 - >10% HBsAg prevalence in Central Asian countries

Regional Hepatitis B Action Plan

- Objectives:
 - Within EVAP implementation set regional hepatitis B control targets and indicators
 - Define strategic activities specific for hepatitis B prevention and control
- Will be integrated into a broader regional viral hepatitis plan/strategy

Regional hepatitis B control targets

- Sustainable universal immunization programmes in all countries with 95% coverage with three doses of hepatitis B vaccine
- Universal newborn immunization (within 24 hours after birth) or effective universal screening of pregnant women and post exposure prophylaxis of carrier children
- Prevalence of HBsAg in children in vaccinated cohorts of children 0.5% or lower confirmed by serosurvey

HEPATITIS B IMMUNIZATION IN WHO EUROPEAN REGION



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Immunization policy

- 48 countries implement universal immunization programmes
 - 26 countries–newborn immunization
 - 18 countries – infant immunization
 - 3 countries (Hungary, Slovenia, Switzerland) – universal immunization at the age beyond infancy
- 6 countries vaccinate individuals at high risk of infection

Prevention of parenteral transmission

- 26 countries implement universal newborn immunization
- All other countries implement universal hep B screening of pregnant women and post exposure prophylaxis of children born to chronically infected mothers
- Some countries implement both strategies

Coverage

- Hep B 3 doses coverage reported to WHO is high (>90%)
 - 2 countries do not report coverage to WHO
 - France and Ukraine report low (<80%) coverage for the last 5 years
- Hep B birth dose coverage high (>95%) but there are concerns about timeliness of administration of the birth dose

STRATEGIC ACTIVITIES SPECIFIC FOR HEPATITIS B PREVENTION



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Mobilizing and sustaining political commitment

- Set national hepatitis B control targets and define strategies to prevent hepatitis B as a part of broader multisectoral national plans on viral hepatitis
- Educate and train health professionals and the general public to create awareness, increase knowledge, and improve attitudes and practices
- Work with MCH and other stakeholders to increase awareness among women of reproductive age about burden of hepatitis B and the importance of hepatitis B vaccination

Universal hepatitis B immunization in all countries of the Region

- Countries that do not currently implement universal hepatitis b immunization should add hepatitis B vaccination into their routine childhood immunization programmes
- Countries that implement universal vaccination of children at the age older than infancy should change the the schedule to start vaccination as soon as possible after the birth
- Catch-up vaccination strategies targeted at older age groups or groups with risk factors should be a supplement to universal vaccination

Effectively prevent perinatal transmission of hepatitis B virus

- Countries with universal newborn vaccination:
 - Establish well-functioning registration and monitoring systems for vaccination status, including timeliness of hepatitis B birth dose
 - Develop strategies to timely administer birth dose to children born at home
 - Address false-contraindications against vaccinations by pre- and post-service education

Effectively prevent perinatal transmission of hepatitis B virus (cont'd)

- Countries with universal infants vaccination:
 - Regular assess screening of pregnant women to ensure high coverage
 - Establish system to monitor the timely provision of hepatitis B birth dose and complete three-dose series of hepatitis B vaccination to infants born to carrier mothers

Partners

- UNICEF
- ECDC
- VHPB
- US CDC
- European bilateral development agencies
- Academic institutions
- WHO collaborating centres
- Professional associations
- Nongovernmental organizations and civil societies



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