

Preventing Perinatal Hepatitis B Virus Transmission:

# A Guide for Introducing and Strengthening Hepatitis B Birth Dose Vaccination



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# About this guide

This document is intended for use by national immunization programme managers, maternal neonatal and child health (MNCH) professionals, and immunization partners involved with operationalizing hepatitis B birth dose (HepB-BD) introduction or strengthening an existing HepB-BD programme. The document also provides information on the practicality of HepB-BD, to help policy-makers, partners and managers who are considering introduction of HepB-BD into an immunization schedule.

General guidance about planning the introduction of a vaccine into a national immunization programme is provided in the document *Principles and considerations for adding a vaccine to a national immunization programme: from decision to implementation and monitoring* published by WHO in 2014 and available at [http://www.who.int/immunization/programmes\\_systems/policies\\_strategies/vaccine\\_intro\\_resources/nvi\\_guidelines/en/](http://www.who.int/immunization/programmes_systems/policies_strategies/vaccine_intro_resources/nvi_guidelines/en/).

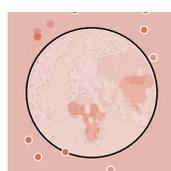
However, as hepatitis B birth dose is not an entirely new vaccine, but rather a new delivery strategy for a vaccine already included in the routine schedule, this guide will focus on the unique aspects and programmatic features of administering hepatitis B vaccine as a birth dose.

## **The specific objectives of this guide are:**

- to provide an overview of WHO recommendations, best practices, technical justification and strategic approaches relating to providing hepatitis B birth dose to newborns.
- to highlight the unique operational requirements for introducing a vaccination that should be delivered as soon after birth as possible, preferably within 24 hours.
- to inform the policy discussions and operational strategies for the introduction of hepatitis B birth dose vaccination into a national immunization programme.

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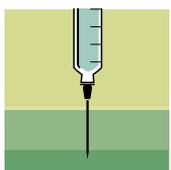
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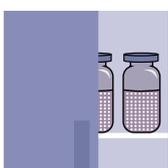
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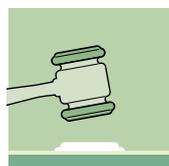
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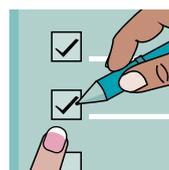
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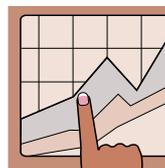
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# Abbreviations & acronyms

<b>AEFI</b>	adverse event following immunization
<b>BCG</b>	Bacille Calmette-Guérin
<b>CHEW</b>	community health extension worker
<b>cMYP</b>	comprehensive multi-year plan
<b>CPAD</b>	compact pre-filled auto-disable device
<b>CTC</b>	controlled temperature chain
<b>DHS</b>	demographic and health survey
<b>DTP</b>	diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis vaccine
<b>EPI</b>	Expanded Programme on Immunization
<b>Gavi</b>	Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance
<b>HBsAg</b>	hepatitis B surface antigen
<b>HBeAg</b>	hepatitis B 'e' antigen
<b>HBV</b>	hepatitis B virus
<b>HepB</b>	hepatitis B vaccine
<b>HepB3</b>	hepatitis B vaccine third dose
<b>HepB-BD</b>	hepatitis B vaccine birth dose
<b>HEW</b>	health extension worker
<b>Hib</b>	<i>haemophilus influenzae</i> type B
<b>HIV</b>	human immunodeficiency virus
<b>IEC</b>	information, education and communication
<b>JRF</b>	Joint Reporting Form
<b>MICS</b>	multiple indicator cluster survey
<b>MNCH</b>	maternal neonatal and child health
<b>MDVP</b>	multi-dose vial policy
<b>NITAG</b>	national immunization technical advisory group

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