

RESOLUTION

Subject: Birth Dose of Hepatitis B Vaccine

Submitted by: Monalisa Tailor, MD

Referred to: Reference Committee

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WHEREAS, hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection is a significant public health concern associated with chronic liver disease, cirrhosis, and hepatocellular carcinoma; and

WHEREAS, untreated hepatitis B infection can cause issues for adults who are diagnosed with autoimmune conditions later in life; and

WHEREAS, perinatal and early childhood transmission are major contributors to chronic HBV infection, with up to 90% of infants infected at birth developing chronic infection; and

WHEREAS, safe and effective hepatitis B vaccines have been available for decades and have demonstrated high efficacy in preventing HBV infection; and

WHEREAS, administration of the hepatitis B vaccine within 24 hours of birth is a critical intervention to prevent perinatal transmission, including in cases where maternal HBV status is unknown or documentation is incomplete; and

WHEREAS, national and international public health organizations, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP pre May 2025), and World Health Organization (WHO), recommend universal hepatitis B vaccination beginning at birth; and

WHEREAS, the hepatitis B birth dose serves as a vital safety net to prevent transmission due to missed maternal screening, false-negative results, or breakdowns in communication of maternal HBV status; and

WHEREAS, timely administration of the birth dose improves completion of the vaccine series and contributes to long-term reductions in HBV infection rates and related morbidity and mortality; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that KMA supports universal administration of the hepatitis B vaccine birth dose for all medically appropriate newborns; and be it further

RESOLVED, that KMA supports educational efforts aimed at increasing awareness among healthcare providers and parents regarding the safety, efficacy, and importance of the hepatitis B birth dose; and be it further

RESOLVED, that KMA opposes policies or practices that discourage or delay the routine administration of the hepatitis B vaccine at birth in the absence of medical contraindications.