

Hepatitis B

Mothers

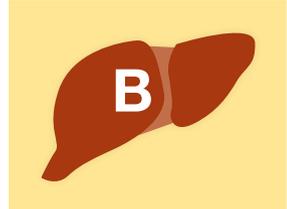
and babies



I'm pregnant and I have hepatitis B. What do I need to know?

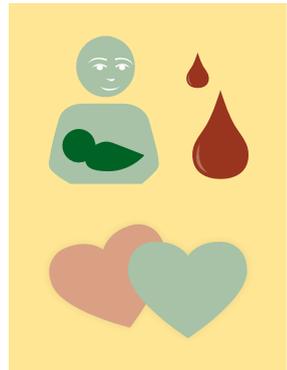
What is hepatitis B?

It is an **infection caused by the hepatitis B virus**. Your liver might get damaged if your hepatitis B isn't managed by a doctor or nurse.



How is hepatitis B passed on?

It is usually passed from **mother to baby at birth**. It can also be passed on during sex or by blood-to-blood contact (such as sharing unsterile needles, tattooing, piercing).



What do I need to do?

It is **important that you see your doctor every 6 months for a hepatitis B check-up**. This is to see if your liver is healthy and how the virus is behaving.

For more information in your language, you can call **TIS National on 131 450** (for free) and ask to be connected to the **Hepatitis Infoline on 1800 803 990**



Is there any cure for hepatitis B?

There is no cure for hepatitis B but there are pills that can help stop liver damage. Your doctor will tell you if you need them.



Do I need treatment?

You might need treatment when you're pregnant, to help protect your baby from hepatitis B.

After your baby is born, you will need 6 monthly hepatitis B checks with your doctor, to keep you healthy. These tests will also show if you need treatment.



How can I protect my baby from hepatitis B?

Soon after your baby is born, your midwife will give your baby 2 important injections.

- Hepatitis B immunoglobulin (within 12 hours of birth).
- Hepatitis B vaccine (the first of 4 vaccinations).

After these injections, your baby will have a very low chance of getting hepatitis B.



Can I breastfeed my baby?

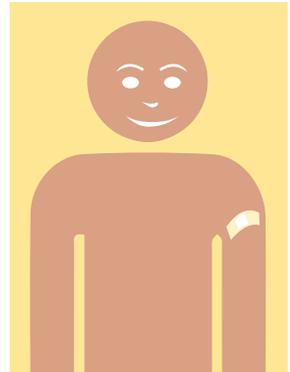
After your baby gets their first 2 hepatitis B injections you can start breastfeeding.

Hepatitis B is not passed on through skin-to-skin contact - so you can still have skin-to-skin contact with your baby while you're waiting for their injections.



Why is vaccination so important?

If your baby or young children are not vaccinated, there is a high chance of them getting lifelong hepatitis B. **The best way to keep your family protected from hepatitis B for life is vaccination.**



Should I talk to my family about hepatitis B?

You can choose if you want to tell your family about your hepatitis B. It could be good to tell some of your family in case they also have hepatitis B. They should be tested and vaccinated, if needed.



If you'd like to talk to someone about telling your family, call the **Hepatitis Infoline 1800 803 990** (these calls are confidential).

What happens after the hospital?

For you

- After your baby is born, **see your doctor every month** (for 6 months) to check your liver's health.
- **To stay healthy, make sure you get a hepatitis B check up every 6 months, for life.**

For your baby

- **All babies have 4 hepatitis B vaccinations:**
 - at birth
 - 4 months old
 - 6 weeks old
 - 6 months old.
- To know if your baby is hepatitis B free, your baby is tested 3 months after the last hepatitis B vaccination.
- You can talk about your baby's health, or ask questions at your regular visits with your family health nurse.

Where can I go for help?

The **Hepatitis Infoline 1800 803 990** and **Online Chat** provide information and support. Or go to **www.hep.org.au** for more information and resources.

Every month



Then every 6 months



4 x 
vaccinations
by 6 months old



or



For hepatitis B information in Chinese, go to:

中文版乙肝信息:

<https://www.hep.org.au/chinese>

For hepatitis B information in Korean, go to:

한국어로 된 B형 간염 정보를 원하시면 여기를 방문하세요:

<https://www.hep.org.au/korean/>

More languages available at www.mhahs.org.au

Arabic, Chinese, Indonesian, Khmer, Thai, Vietnamese

Want to know more?

Call our *Hepatitis Infoline* **1800 803 990** (free from a landline)

Or look up our website www.hep.org.au for more free brochures

ENTER TO WIN A \$100 GIFT CARD!

To enter just tell us what you think about this brochure at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/hepBmothers>



Hepatitis Infoline
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Hepatitis NSW is proud to
acknowledge Aboriginal
people as the traditional
owners and custodians
of the lands and waters.

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