



AAPCHO

Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations

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October 12, 2005

Jon Abramson, MD
Chairman of ACIP
Weston M. Kelsey Professor & Chair
Department of Pediatrics
Wake Forest University School of Medicine
Medical Center Boulevard
Winston Salem, NC 27157

AAPCHO member centers:

Asian Health Services
Oakland, CA

Asian Human Services
Chicago, IL

Asian Pacific Health Care Venture
Los Angeles, CA

Bay Clinic, Inc.
Hilo, HI

Charles B. Wang Community Health
Center, New York, NY

Community-University Health Care
Center, Minneapolis, MN

Family Health Center
Worcester, MA

International Community Health Service,
Seattle, WA

Kalihi-Palama Health Center
Honolulu, HI

Kokua Kalihi Valley Health Center
Honolulu, HI

Kwajalein Atoll Community Health
Center, Ebeye, MH

Lowell Community Health Center
Lowell, MA

National Alliance to Nurture the Aged
and Youth Inc., North Miami, FL

North East Medical Services
San Francisco, CA

Operation Samahan Health Clinic
National City, CA

Papa Ola Lokahi
Honolulu, HI

South Cove Community Health Center,
Boston, MA

Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health
Center, Waianae, HI

Waimanalo Health Center
Waimanalo, HI

Dear Dr. Abramson:

On behalf of the Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO), I am writing to request that the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) postpone the final vote of the draft Recommendations for Adult Hepatitis B Vaccination at the October 26-27 meeting. As advocates of the Asian American and Pacific Islander community, we strongly feel that it is in our community's best interest to be involved and have the opportunity to review the latest draft of the recommendations for adult hepatitis B vaccination. Since voting is scheduled to take place at the October 26-27 meeting, we urge you to postpone the final vote for the draft, so that it will be inclusive and adequately address the needs of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders as it relates to the threat of hepatitis B.

AAPCHO is a national association representing community health organizations dedicated to promoting advocacy, collaboration and leadership that improves the health status and access of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders within the United States, its territories and freely associated states, primarily through our member community health clinics.

Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) are disproportionately affected by many health conditions, including hepatitis B. The prevalence of chronic HBV in Asian Americans is almost 70 times higher compared to white Americans. The disease represents one of the most significant health disparities for this population.

AAPCHO would like the opportunity to review the draft and provide recommendations related to screening, prevention and treatment of chronic hepatitis B for adult Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. We hope you'll consider postponing the final vote. In doing so, you will better capture the needs of a community that has been deeply affected by this disease.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeffrey B. Caballero', written over a horizontal line.

Jeffrey B. Caballero, MPH
Executive Director

cc: The Honorable Michael O. Leavitt, Secretary, DHHS
Larry Perkering, MD, Executive Secretary for ACIP
Julie Gerberding, MD, MPH, Director, CDC
Mitchell L. Cohen, MD, Director, Coordinating Center for Infectious Diseases, CDC
John W. Ward, Director, Division of Viral Hepatitis, CDC
Eric Mast, MD, MPH, Division of Viral Hepatitis, CDC
Dee Gardner, National Immunization Program, CDC
Dick Conlon, Administrator, National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable