



HEPATITIS B FOUNDATION

700 East Butler Avenue
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CAUSE FOR A CURE

www.hepb.org

June 1, 2005

Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices Members
c/o Stephen C. Hadler, M.D., Acting Executive Secretary
Chief, Global Alliance Vaccine Initiative, CDC
1600 Clifton Road, NE
Atlanta, GA 30333

Dear ACIP Members,

The Hepatitis B Foundation strongly supports the planned update of the national hepatitis B prevention recommendations by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.

As one of the nation's only nonprofit organizations solely dedicated to the problem of hepatitis B, and as a national advocate for all those affected by this serious liver disease, the ACIP's policy recommendations are of critical importance to the Hepatitis B Foundation and those we serve.

The current recommendations have not made a significant impact on the number of new hepatitis B infections and we believe that vaccinating all adults is a necessary and important step to eliminating hepatitis B in the United States, and that a recommendation which endorses age-based, rather than risk-based immunization, is the most effective way to achieve this goal. The current draft recommendations stop short of recommending an age-based strategy and continue to endorse a "risk-based" strategy (e.g. incarcerated persons, persons with multiple sex partners, men who have sex with men).

We respectfully request that this letter be forwarded to all ACIP members, liaisons and ex-officials. We also request that this letter be included in the official record of the June 29 - 30, ACIP meeting and that it be made available for the public who attend the meeting.

Finally, please know that all of us at the Hepatitis B Foundation appreciate the tremendous amount of time and effort being given by CDC staff and the working group on this major project. The ACIP recommendations are essential to our nation's health. We only urge that more time be given for review of this important document.

Sincerely,

Mollie C. Conti
Vice - President,
Hepatitis B Foundation

cc: Myron J. Levin, M.D., Chairman, ACIP
Louisa Chapman, M.D., National Immunization Program/ CDC
Dee Gardner, Staff Member, ACIP
Deborah L. Wexler, M.D., Immunization Action Coalition



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