



Information for GPs and practice nurses

## Hepatitis B vaccine for at risk infants

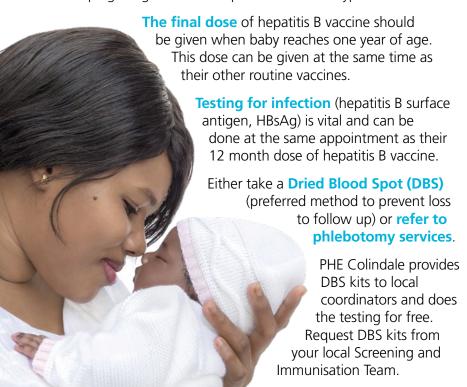
Each year, around 3000 babies are at risk of developing hepatitis B infection following exposure to the hepatitis B virus from their mother's blood during childbirth.

**Hepatitis B vaccine** is prioritised for these infants and can prevent infection in around 90% of them if it is given at the right times.

The first dose should be given within 24 hours of birth and is usually administered in the delivery suite.

**The second dose** of vaccine should be ordered when mum registers the baby at your surgery. It needs to be given to the infant at 4 weeks of age.

Ensure that mum is aware that the next three doses of hepatitis B containing vaccine are given to all babies at 8, 12 and 16 weeks of age at their routine immunisation appointments. This 6 in 1 vaccine will also protect against other serious infections including diphtheria, tetanus, polio, whooping cough and haemophilus influenzae type B.



## Protect the baby by vaccination

When pregnant women attend for vaccination during pregnancy

- Ask mum if they have screened positive for hepatitis B
- ✓ Tell her to register their baby at the surgery as soon as possible when born

## When baby is registered

- **⊘** Check if baby has had their birth dose
- Request monovalent hepatitis B vaccine
- Immunise baby at the right age and with the right interval between doses
- Take a dried blood spot test or venous blood sample to check for infection when the infant is one year old
- Keep a record of all hepatitis B vaccine doses given
- Refer child to specialist liver services if they are infected