## The ABCs of Hepatitis

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<td>• Estimated 25,000 new infections in 2007</td>
<td>Ingestion of fecal matter, even in microscopic amounts, from:  - Close person-to-person contact with an infected person  - Sexual contact with an infected person  - Ingestion of contaminated food or drinks</td>
<td>• Travelers to regions with intermediate or high rates of Hepatitis A  • Sex contacts of infected persons  • Household members or caregivers of infected persons  • Men who have sex with men  • Users of certain illegal drugs (injection and non-injection)  • Persons with clotting-factor disorders</td>
<td>15 to 50 days (average: 28 days)</td>
<td>Symptoms of all types of viral hepatitis are similar and can include one or more of the following:  - Loss of appetite  - Nausea  - Vomiting  - Abdominal pain  - Clay-colored bowel movements  - Fever  - Fatigue</td>
<td>• &lt; 10% of children &lt; 6 years have jaundice  • 40%–50% of children age 6–14 years have jaundice  • 70%–80% of persons &gt; 14 years have jaundice</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Most persons with acute disease recover with no lasting liver damage; rarely fatal</td>
<td>• IgM anti-HAV</td>
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### Serologic Tests for Chronic Infection
- Not applicable—no chronic infection

### Screening Recommendations for Chronic Infection
- Not applicable—no chronic infection
  Note: Screening for past acute infection is generally not recommended

### Testing is recommended for:
- Pregnant women
- Persons born in regions with intermediate or high rates of Hepatitis B (HBsAg prevalence of ≥2%)
- U.S.-born persons not vaccinated as infants whose parents were born in regions with high rates of Hepatitis B (HBsAg prevalence of ≥ 8%)
- Infants born to HBsAg-positive mothers
- Household, needle-sharing, or sex contacts of HBsAg-positive persons
- Men who have sex with men
- Injection drug users
- Patients with elevated liver enzymes (ALT/AST) of unknown etiology
- Hemodialysis patients
- Persons needing immunosuppressive or cytotoxic therapy
- HIV-infected persons
- Sources of blood or body fluids involved in potential HBV exposures (e.g., needlesticks)
- Donors of blood, plasma, organs, tissues, or semen

### Treatment
- No medication available
- Best addressed through supportive treatment

### Vaccination Recommendations
- Hepatitis A vaccine is recommended for:
  - All children at age 1 year
  - Travelers to regions with intermediate or high rates of Hepatitis A
  - Men who have sex with men
  - Users of certain illegal drugs (injection and non-injection)
  - Persons with clotting-factor disorders
  - Persons who work with HAV-infected primates or with HAV in a research laboratory
  - Persons with chronic liver disease, including HBV- and HCV-infected persons with chronic liver disease
  - Anyone else seeking long-term protection

- Hepatitis B vaccine is recommended for:
  - All infants within 12 hours of birth
  - Older children who have not previously been vaccinated
  - Sex partners of infected persons
  - Persons with multiple sex partners
  - Persons seeking evaluation or treatment for an STD
  - Men who have sex with men
  - Injection drug users
  - Household contacts of infected persons
  - Healthcare and public safety workers exposed to blood on the job
  - Persons with chronic liver disease, including HCV-infected persons with chronic liver disease
  - Persons with HIV infection
  - Persons with end-stage renal disease, including predialysis, hemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis, and home dialysis patients
  - Residents and staff of facilities for developmentally disabled persons
  - Travelers to regions with intermediate or high rates of Hepatitis B (HBsAg prevalence of ≥2%)
  - Anyone else seeking long-term protection

- There is no Hepatitis C vaccine.

### Vaccination Schedule
- 2 doses given 6 months apart
- Infants and children: 3 to 4 doses given over a 6- to 18-month period depending on vaccine type and schedule
- Adults: 3 doses given over a 6-month period
- No vaccine available

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**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

**Division of Viral Hepatitis**

[www.cdc.gov/hepatitis](http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis)