



Launch of the new WHO guidelines – Technical Briefing Webinar
Prevention of mother-to-child transmission of hepatitis B virus:
Guidelines on antiviral prophylaxis in pregnancy

July 31st 2020
13.00-14.30 CET

Background:

Vertical (mother-to-child) and horizontal early childhood transmission are the main routes of hepatitis B virus transmission and are responsible for most chronic infections worldwide. The most important preventative intervention is hepatitis B vaccination - the administration of the birth dose vaccine (HepB BD) within 24 hours of birth, followed by at least two more doses of vaccine. Considerable progress has already been made towards control of the HBV epidemic through scale-up of universal infant hepatitis B immunisation over the last two decades.

New WHO guidelines for use of antiviral prophylaxis were launched on World Hepatitis Day, July 28th and complement existing WHO guidance for universal immunization of infants against HBV, and for routine testing of all pregnant women for HIV, syphilis and HBV as early as possible in pregnancy. Use of tenofovir antiviral prophylaxis is now recommended from the 28th week of pregnancy until at least birth in HBV infected women with a high HBV DNA viral load (defined as $\geq 200,000$ IU/mL) or hepatitis e antigen positive (where HBV DNA assays are not available).

The technical briefing webinar will cover the key evidence-base to support the new recommendations, and discuss country experiences and regional perspectives on implementation of these PMTCT interventions, which will vary by geographic region.

AGENDA

TIME	AGENDA ITEM	SPEAKERS
Recommendations, evidence and rationale: Co-chair: Ramatoulie Njie (Gambia) and Philippa Easterbrook (WHO)		
13.00-13.45	Opening remarks	Meg Doherty (Director HHS WHO HQ) Co-chair: Ramatoulie Njie (Gambia) and Indri Sukmaputri (Indonesia)
	Session objectives; key recommendations (5m)	Philippa Easterbrook (WHO HQ)
	Systematic reviews (10m)	Yusuke Shimakawa (Institut Pasteur)
	Modelling of cost-effectiveness (10m)	Shevanthi Nayagam (Imperial College)
	Values and Preferences (5 m)	Judith Van Holten (WHO HQ)
	Q&A (15m)	Co-chairs
Country experiences and Regional perspectives in using antivirals prevention of MTCT of hepatitis B		
Co-chair: Indri Sukmaputri (Indonesia)		
13.45 –14.30	WPRO: China experience in scale-up of testing and antiviral prophylaxis: the SHIELD project (10m)	Jinlin Hou, Department of Infectious Diseases, Nanfang Hospital, Southern Medical University
	AFRO: Ghana experience in birth dose and use of antivirals (5m)	Atsu Seake-Kwawu, National Viral Hepatitis Programme, Ghana
	SEARO: Thailand experience in testing and treatment (5m)	Dr. Monthinee, Thai Ministry of Health (TBC)
	Q&A and moderated discussion (20mins): Regional perspectives and next steps for implementation (20mins)	Co-chairs
	Closing remarks (5m)	