

HEPATITIS B CONTROL MEASURES

Informing the Infected Person

According to NC General Statute Chapter 130A-144, Article 6, Investigation and Control Measures...

- (d) The attending physician shall give control measures prescribed by the Commission to a patient with a communicable disease or communicable condition and to patients reasonably suspected of being infected or exposed to such a disease or condition. The physician shall also give control measures to other individuals as required by rules adopted by the Commission.
- (e) The local health director shall ensure that control measures prescribed by the Commission have been given to prevent the spread of all reportable communicable diseases or communicable conditions and any other communicable disease or communicable condition that represents a significant threat to the public health. The local health director shall provide, at no cost to the patient, the examination and treatment for tuberculosis disease and infection and for sexually transmitted diseases as designated by the Commission.
- (f) All persons shall comply with control measures, including submission to examinations and tests, prescribed by the Commission, subject to the limitations of GS 130A-148.

It is the responsibility of the Communicable Disease nurse to ensure that control measures have been issued to persons known to be infected with a communicable disease such as hepatitis B. Best practice for issuing control measures would be for the nurse to meet face to face with the client, explain the control measures required by law for hepatitis B infection, review written information with the client about hepatitis B, allow time for the client to ask questions, and then have the client sign a letter which indicates that control measures have been explained (see sample letter in this section). For practical reasons, this cannot always be done. Sometimes it is necessary to issue control measures verbally over the phone to the client or by mailing written control measures and information to the client. Regardless of the method of instruction, documentation that control measures were issued should always be completed. For more information on how to document that control measures were given to an infected person, look under "NC EDSS GUIDANCE" in the Table of Contents of the HBV Manual.

Easily reproducible hepatitis B educational materials for clients can be found at the links below.

CDC Patient Education Resources (<http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/B/PatientEduB.htm>):
Hepatitis B fact sheet (both in English and Spanish)

HCV Advocate:

A Guide to Hepatitis B (English version)

http://www.hbvadvocate.org/hepatitis/factsheets_pdf/HBV%20Guide.pdf

Guía para Comprender la Hepatitis B (Spanish version)

http://www.hcvadvocate.org/hepatitis/sp_factsheets/guia_VHB.pdf