



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services  
Division of Public Health – Women's & Children's Health Section

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March 25, 2011

TO: Local Health Directors *KRW*  
THROUGH: Kevin Ryan, MD, MPH  
Megan Davies, MD *MD*  
FROM: Beth Rowe-West, RN, BSN *BW*  
Evelyn Foust, MPH, CPM *EMF*  
RE: Reorganization of General Acute and Chronic Hepatitis B Surveillance

The Immunization Branch (IB) and Communicable Disease Branch (CDB) jointly announce the transition of Hepatitis B surveillance from the Immunization Branch to the Communicable Disease Branch, effective April 15, 2011. The IB will continue Hepatitis B surveillance associated with pregnant women, their contacts and infants.

All questions or concerns about acute and chronic Hepatitis B events should go to the Communicable Disease Branch. The Communicable Disease Branch has re-allocated its existing resources and identified Susan Thompson, RN, MPH as the Hepatitis B Coordinator. Ms. Thompson also serves as the state Hepatitis C Coordinator. She will be assisted with Hepatitis B surveillance activities by the five regional communicable disease nurse consultants. Local health department communicable disease nurses may request technical assistance from either the regional communicable disease nurse consultants or the state Hepatitis B Coordinator when investigating acute and chronic Hepatitis B events.

The IB will focus their Hepatitis B surveillance, prevention and control efforts on the prevention of perinatally-acquired Hepatitis B infection. Local health department staff will work directly with the Perinatal Hepatitis B Coordinator, Sheree Smith, RN, BSN on issues relating to pregnant women infected with Hepatitis B, their contacts and their infant children.

Local health department communicable disease staff will receive a separate communication with additional details about enhancements to NC EDSS to manage Hepatitis B events.

Thank you for your patience during this transition. If you have questions, please feel free to contact the following coordinators:

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Immunization Branch  
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Viral Hepatitis B and C Coordinator  
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