



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

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August 27, 2010

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** North Carolina Birthing Hospitals

**FROM:** Beth Rowe-West, R.N., B.S.N., Head  
Immunization Branch

**SUBJECT:** *Urgent:* Universal Hepatitis B Vaccine Availability

As you may recall, funding which had previously been provided through state appropriations is no longer available for the purchase of vaccine. This state funding had allowed our program to provide vaccines universally—that is to all children regardless of insurance status. State funding for vaccines, including the birth dose of hepatitis B vaccine, has been eliminated with the exception of \$3 million one-time funding for the vaccines to meet school requirements.

**The purpose of this memo is to notify you that federal funding has been identified to resume offering hepatitis B vaccine to birthing hospitals. The hepatitis B vaccine for hospitals is to ensure that a birth dose of the vaccine is available for newborns, regardless of the family’s insurance status. Hospitals enrolled in the North Carolina Immunization Program (NCIP) should continue to order vaccine as normal. Hospitals not currently enrolled who wish to take advantage of this opportunity should contact NCIP Help Desk at 1-877-873-6247.**

Since the vaccine is state-supplied, providers may not charge for the vaccine itself, but may charge an administration fee to the patient, or to their insurance plan. Any payment taken directly from a patient (out-of-pocket) for administering vaccine cannot exceed the current Medicaid rate.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact NCIP Help Desk at 1-877-873-6247.

Cc: SMT Steve Shore      Greg Griggs      Maclyn Powell      Timika Poston      Vaccine Manufacturers  
NCIB Joy Reed      Jessica Gerdes      Taryn Edwards      NCIB Field Services