

# August 2007 HepTalk Listserv

Welcome to the HepTalk Listserv. This month we offer information about an **important opportunity to receive adult hepatitis B vaccine resources**. In addition, we're pleased to alert you to a case-based hepatitis continuing education offered by one of our CDC partners in the Viral Hepatitis Education and Training program. See all details below.

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## **1. Hepatitis Web Study**

From the Seattle STD/HIV Prevention Training Center and the University of Washington. This excellent site provides **interactive, case-based modules related to the clinical care of persons with Viral Hepatitis A, B, and C**. Easy to access at <http://depts.washington.edu/hepstudy/>

## **2. Opportunity for Funds for Adult Hepatitis B Vaccines**

*Attention health centers, health department clinics and other agencies serving adult mobile populations:*

Through the HepTalk project we have learned of an opportunity to access/obtain hepatitis B vaccine resources utilizing Section 317 vaccine funds. If you are interesting in receiving vaccine resources (several million dollars worth of vaccines are available), please contact your state Hepatitis C Coordinator ASAP with your needed resources to be included in the request to CDC.

Each state has a hepatitis coordinator. You can find yours at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/hepatitis/resource/coordinators.htm>

Many of the participating sites in the HepTalk project have reported that they would be happy to provide hepatitis B immunization to eligible adults if they had the vaccines available. This may be a way to have a supply at your clinic in 2008.

Additional information from the CDC letter to immunization programs:

Last fall CDC immunization grantees had the opportunity to submit plans for integrated adult hepatitis B vaccination activities, and a number of grantees provided such plans. In the plans that CDC received, many states reported increasing use of 317 vaccine funds for hepatitis B vaccination, and many are continuing to forge new partnerships and strengthen old ones among immunization, hepatitis, and STD programs.

As the end of the fiscal year approaches, we are looking for opportunities to use available 317 vaccine funds that grantees do not expect to use for routine immunization activities. We would like you to assess whether you and your colleagues can implement or expand hepatitis B vaccination of adults at risk for hepatitis B virus infection and, if so, to re-visit your plan from last fall or develop a plan that describes the activities you

would undertake. We are sending this message now so that you will have time to talk to colleagues and assess the level of interest among STD and HIV clinics or other venues that could provide hepatitis B vaccination to high-risk adults.

The funds will be available for vaccine purchase only. We will be asking interested states to submit a two-page plan of action and expect it to be due sometime around September 15.

CDC hepatitis B vaccination recommendations for adults:

[http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/hepatitis/recs/primary\\_care.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/hepatitis/recs/primary_care.htm)

*Note that risk groups include both persons with multiple sex partners and persons getting treatment for an STI. This could include many of your adult clients! The HepTalk Project encourages you to offer this cancer preventing vaccine at your clinic.*

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HepTalk is a project of the Migrant Clinicians Network and Community Health Education Concepts. HepTalk is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The goal of HepTalk is to help clinicians serving migrants and recent immigrants engage in productive discussions about hepatitis risks with their clients and help them make prevention plans. The HepTalk listserv is a support service for clinics participating in the project. This is a post-only listserv and postings will come from HepTalk staff about once a month. If others at your clinic would like to be on the listserv, or if you have questions about the listserv or resources listed here, or if you would like to add something to the posts, please contact Kathryn Anderson, HepTalk training and education coordinator and listserv administrator, at [kath@healthletter.com](mailto:kath@healthletter.com). You can also contact the listserv administrator if you would like to unsubscribe from the list.