Asian American Health Initiative

Hepatitis B Pilot Project

Education | Screening | Vaccination | Treatment

What is Hepatitis B?

 Hepatitis B is an extremely strong virus that attacks the liver and can cause “acute” or “chronic” infection.

 Acute infection is a short term illness and the most common form of Hepatitis B. Individuals that previously had an acute infection are immune from being re-infected by the Hepatitis B Virus.

 Chronic infection is a long term form of Hepatitis B. When left unmonitored and untreated, up to one out of four individuals will die from liver cancer or cirrhosis (scarring) of the liver.

 Hepatitis B Virus is over 100 times more infectious than HIV so it is important to learn how you can protect yourself and your family.

Hepatitis B and Asian Americans

 1 out of 10 Asian Americans has chronic Hepatitis B compared to 1 in 1000 Caucasian Americans.

 Chinese Americans, in particular, have a 6 fold higher risk for developing Hepatitis B-related liver cancer than Caucasians.

 It is recommended that individuals born in China be tested for this highly infectious virus.

 Many Asian Americans contract Hepatitis B from an infected mother during childbirth. Individuals that are infected before the age of 2 are more likely to develop Chronic Hepatitis B.

Hepatitis B is both preventable & treatable.

 It is possible to have Hepatitis B and not have any symptoms and feel healthy so it is important to detect it early through Hepatitis B screening.

 A Hepatitis B screening is a simple blood test that will tell if you have Hepatitis B.

 To be completely protected from Hepatitis B, you can get a series of three vaccine injections. The series is conducted at 1, 2 and 6 months.

 The Hepatitis B vaccine is so effective that it was called the world’s first anti-cancer vaccine

 If a person is infected with Hepatitis B, they will need additional testing and may need medication.

Hepatitis B Pilot Project

For years, the Asian American Health Initiative (AAHI) has worked with a number of community partners to educate a diverse group of Asian Americans living in Montgomery County on Hepatitis B-related issues. This year, to meet the growing unmet need in the community for Hepatitis B services, AAHI is implementing a Hepatitis B Pilot Project in partnership with the Chinese Culture and Community Service Center (CCACC). AAHI will provide free Hepatitis B education, screening and referrals to vaccination or treatment for Montgomery County residents aged 18 or over. The project is open to adults regardless of income level or insurance status.

There will be a free, educational seminar where people can learn more about Hepatitis B. A physician will be available for consultation. To test for Hepatitis B, Labcorp will conduct a blood test to test for Hepatitis B Antibodies and Antigens free of charge to all participants. Within a few weeks, participants will be notified of the results of the blood test by mail. The result may be At-risk (Not Immune), Immune or Infected. AAHI will provide referrals for vaccination or treatment; Participants may have to pay for follow-up services depending on their insurance status and/or income level.

Program Map

Education (Free)

Screening (Free)

Results (Infected- Needs Treatment, At Risk- Needs Vaccine, Immune)

Insured, Uninsured

* Consultation with AAHI physician (no cost)

Referrals

* Private provider (at cost to participant)
* NIH Clinical Trial (no cost to participant)
* Frederick County Hepatitis Clinic
* Takoma Park Travel Clinic for vaccination ($65 per dose)
* CCACC Pan Asian Volunteer health Clinic
* (at no cost to participant; must be uninsured/low income)

Notes

  AAHI will not release patient results to anyone without explicit, written permission from the patient through a HHS Authorization Form or as permitted or required by law.

  It is the sole responsibility of the participant to follow up on any potential abnormalities detected by these screenings by obtaining appropriate medical attention. In the event that, a patient is recommended for follow-up care, AAHI will provide a number of options; AAHI will also contact the patient at the phone number and address provided to notify the patient of additional options for treatment or vaccination as they arise. AAHI will not pay for the cost of vaccination or treatment unless otherwise noted.

Asian American Health Initiative (AAHI)

AAHI was established and funded in 2004 to help eliminate health disparities that exist between Asian Americans and their non-Asian counterparts. It is part of the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services. The AAHI's purpose is to develop appropriate health programs that meet the needs of a diverse group of Asian Americans living in the County.

Chinese Culture and Community Service Center (CCACC)

CCACC was established in November 1982 and has grown to become an organization of over 1000 family members. It is a non-profit and non-partisan organization serving the greater Washington D.C. area. CCACC consists of many clubs, programs, activities, and provides a wide range of services.

This information is available in alternate formats by calling \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(voice), \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(TTY) or you may email AAHI staff at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

www.AAHIinfo.org

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