

# Easy B Facts

## Gay Men, Sex & HBV

The main ways that hepatitis B (HBV for short) is transmitted are from getting HBV blood into your body, by having unprotected sex with someone who has HBV, and when a baby is born to a mother who has HBV.

Gay men or men who have sex with men are at higher risk of getting HBV than other groups in the United States. The best protection against HBV is to get the HBV

vaccine if you have not been previously infected. Ask your doctor to test you for HBV and if not infected you can get the vaccine to prevent you from becoming infected.

If you are not protected it is a good idea to always practice safer sex – the use of a barrier during sex can reduce the chances of getting HBV and safer sex will also protect you from other sexually transmitted diseases like HIV.

### *It is important to remember...*

- HBV is spread by blood-to-blood contact, but remember that blood can be present even if you can't see it.
- Practice safer sex especially when blood is present or if you have many sex partners.
- Do not share needles or works (cookers, cottons, water).
- Do not share toothbrushes or razor blades. Cover open cuts or wounds.
- Talk with your doctor about getting the vaccine if needed.



**HBV ADVOCATE**

[www.hbvadvocate.org](http://www.hbvadvocate.org)

**Hepatitis C  
Support Project**

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