

# Easy B Facts

## Mother-to-Child Transmission

There is about a 90% (9 out of 10) chance that a baby born to a mother who is infected with the hepatitis B virus (HBV for short) will get chronic or long-term HBV infection. Once a baby has developed chronic HBV infection there is a real chance that it could lead to serious health problems in the future.

This can be prevented most of the time if the baby is given two types of shots – HBV vaccine and HBV immune globulin (shots to help the body fight off and protect against HBV infection) within 12 hours of birth.

### *It Is Important to Remember:*

- Every pregnant women should be tested for HBV – but make sure to ask for the test in case your doctor forgets to test you
- A baby born to a mother with chronic hepatitis B should be given HBV immune globulin and the hepatitis B vaccine within 12 hours after birth
- The second shot of vaccine is usually given 1 month after the first shot
- The third shot of vaccine is usually given about 2 to 4 months later
- The good news is that HBV is not transmitted through breast feeding



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

Hepatitis C  
Support Project

VERSION 4.0 • March 2009