

# Easy B Facts

## What is HBV Viral Load?

Hepatitis B virus (HBV) DNA contains the genes that make up the virus – that is the material that the virus uses to make more copies of itself. A blood test is taken to find out if someone has HBV and, if so, how many hepatitis B viruses are in the blood. The results of the viral load test are listed as copies or in international units.

Also, the viral load test is used to find out if someone needs HBV medicines and if the medicines worked.

HBV viral load is also used to determine who will have more liver damage. People who have high viral load counts over a long period of time are more likely to have more damage to the liver.

### ***It is Important to Remember . . .***

- If you have chronic hepatitis B you should be checked regularly by a doctor
- One of the tests used is a blood test called a viral load test
- The viral load test is one of the tests used to find out if HBV medicines are needed
- The viral load test is also one of the tests used to see if treatment worked and reduced your viral load
- A high viral load over a long period of time may mean that the liver is more likely to become damaged



**HBV ADVOCATE**

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

**Hepatitis C  
Support Project**

VERSION 4.1 • March 2010  
Alan Franciscus / Christine Kukka