

**Blast Communication**

**May is Hepatitis Awareness Month**

The month of May is designated as Hepatitis Awareness Month in the United States, and May 19th is Hepatitis Testing Day. During May, the campaign aims to shed light on this hidden epidemic by raising awareness of viral hepatitis and encouraging priority populations to get tested. Pediatric providers are encouraged to check immunization records of children and adolescents for proof of hepatitis A and B vaccinations, vaccinate those with no documented history, and screen high-risk children for hepatitis B and C infection.

More than five million Americans are living with chronic hepatitis, yet most do not know they are infected. One in 12 Asian Americans have chronic hepatitis B infection, but most have not been diagnosed. Viral hepatitis is a leading cause of liver cancer and liver transplants. People with chronic hepatitis B and hepatitis C infections have the greatest risk of liver cancer. In fact, more than 60 percent of liver cancer cases are caused by hepatitis B or C. Screen pediatric patients whose mothers were born in high endemic areas of the world, and routinely monitor those found to be infected with hepatitis B. Consider referral and treatment for patients diagnosed with chronic hepatitis. Vaccinate susceptible patients.

**The ABCs of Viral Hepatitis**

Click [here](#) to view a one page factsheet on hepatitis A, B, and C that provides hepatitis basics, important facts, and public health strategies.

Also, information on **Georgia's Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program** may be found [here](#).

*For questions or concerns regarding this blastfax or any other immunization information, please contact the Chapter's Immunization Coordinator, Mike Chaney at (404) 881-5094 or [mchaney@gaaap.org](mailto:mchaney@gaaap.org)*