

Hepatitis B transmission and Testing

Hepatitis B transmission

- predominantly by percutaneous or mucosal exposure to infected blood and various body fluids, including saliva, menstrual, vaginal, and seminal fluids.
- Vertical transmission (mother-to-child transmission, MTCT) has been an important factor in maintaining the reservoir of infection.
 - The greatest risk of developing chronic infection is approximately 90% following MTCT transmission (up to six months of age) but this risk decreases to about 30% between the ages of 6 months and 5 years.
 - Mothers who are seropositive for HBeAg or who have high HBV DNA levels in the blood (>200, 000 IU/mL) are at high risk of transmitting the infection to their infants in the absence of prophylaxis.
 - Although HBV can infect the fetus in utero, this is rare and transmission is generally associated with antepartum hemorrhage and placental tears.

Hepatitis B testing

(according to MAM hep B testing memo)

Types of clients	Baseline HBs antigen	Annual screening to HBs Ag negative patients	Remarks
All PLHIV	Yes (No need to test if the patient is known HBs antigen positive)	STOP Exception , Two types of patients: 1. In any patient when TDF is needed to stop or TDF is needed to change to another regime (considering HBV flare up) 2. In any patient If clinically indicated.	▪ If hep B negative, offer hep B vaccination depending on the vaccine availability and prevention practice as required (e.g., condoms, needle and syringe program) ▪ If hep B is positive, the ART regime should include TDF. Please discuss with the
HIV negative	No	No	

KAPs not on PrEP			technical team if there is a contraindication to TDF. .
HIV negative KAPs who are on PrEP	Yes	Yes	
HIV-negative pregnant women	Yes	NO	If HBV tested positive, follow MAM SOP for PMTCT of HBV infection
Others	NO		

- Routine screening of HBsAg at the first antenatal visit in all pregnant women is recommended as part of antenatal care services.
- Pre-treatment counseling and prophylactic treatment should be offered to those pregnant women who test positive for HBsAg.