HEPATITIS B VACCINATION IN DIABETES CARE:
Awareness, Priorities and Action among Diabetes Educators and Adults with Diabetes

Hepatitis B (HBV) is a liver disease caused by the HEPATITIS B virus, which can lead to serious diseases, including liver cancer and cirrhosis, and even death.¹

PEOPLE LIVING WITH DIABETES, AGE 23-59 YEARS, MAY HAVE APPROXIMATELY A TWO-FOLD INCREASED RISK OF HBV INFECTION COMPARED TO THOSE WITHOUT DIABETES.²

In 2011, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) issued the following recommendations:

**ADULTS WITH DIABETES 19 TO 59**
Should be vaccinated against HBV as soon as feasible after diagnosis

**ADULTS AGE 60+ WITH DIABETES**
Should be vaccinated against HBV at the discretion of the treating healthcare provider based on the likelihood of acquiring HBV infection

VACCINATING PEOPLE WITH DIABETES AGAINST HBV³

¹ Hepatitis B (HBV): Hepatitis B and Diabetes
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AADE and GSK conducted a survey of 1,000 AADE members to determine awareness among diabetes educators of the CDC recommendations, how diabetes educators inform their patients and what level of awareness exists among AADE members’ patients about vaccinations, specifically HBV.

### Low Patient Awareness

Diabetes educators perceive lack of awareness and concern about HBV vaccination among patients, despite CDC recommendations and increased risk of HBV:

- **More than half** say their patients are not aware that as a person with diabetes, it is even more important that they get their vaccinations.

### Barriers to Education

Time is a significant factor for diabetes educators, so they prioritize educating patients on lifestyle and behavior management versus vaccinations:

- **72%** say setting goals and improving patient self-care habits are their priorities.

### Disconnect Between Awareness and Beliefs

There is lack of awareness around the CDC’s recommendations, yet educators feel HBV vaccination is an important topic to discuss with patients:

- **52%** are unaware of the CDC recommendations.
- **Nearly 80%** feel that it is very or somewhat important for their patients to be educated about HBV.
- **However 38%** do not educate their patients about HBV vaccination.
- **And 25%** rely on primary care physicians, endocrinologists and other health providers to give patients this information.

### Call to Action

AADE is committed to raising awareness among patients with diabetes of their increased risk of hepatitis B and the importance of vaccination in helping reduce that risk.

- Reinforce CDC adult vaccination recommendations and AADE’s practice documents on vaccinations through a variety of AADE communication vehicles.
- Connect with fellow members of the diabetes community and other healthcare groups to explore joint initiatives to increase vaccination rates among people with diabetes.
- Provide guidance to other immunization-focused stakeholders on how to communicate to people with diabetes.
- Provide tools for healthcare providers, such as a vaccines checklists for patients with diabetes. Provide patients with diabetes easy-to-understand take-home materials covering the importance of vaccines.

For more information, read the report here: [www.diabeteseducator.org/aware/vaccinereport](http://www.diabeteseducator.org/aware/vaccinereport).

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