The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Health and Human Services

Department of Public Health

Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences

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Dear Doctor or other Healthcare Provider,

Your patient has been diagnosed with **chronic Hepatitis B** based on positive laboratory tests reported to the Department of Public Health (DPH) of Massachusetts. Chronic Hepatitis B is most commonly diagnosed with two positive Hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) tests at least six months apart.

As part of our effort to improve the care of people with Hepatitis B, the Massachusetts DPH is contacting you to ensure that you and your patient are informed of this diagnosis so that appropriate testing and treatment for chronic Hepatitis B can be initiated.

DPH recommends following guidelines from the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD). A patient with chronic Hepatitis B should have regular check-ups **every 3-6 months that typically include:**

1. Physical exam
2. Laboratory tests including
	1. Liver function tests (AST, ALT, Tbili, Dbili, Alk phos)
	2. Hepatitis B labs
		1. HBsAg (Hepatitis B surface antigen)
		2. HBeAg (Hepatitis B e antigen)
		3. HBeAb (Hepatitis B e antibody)
		4. HBsAb (Hepatitis B surface antibody)
		5. HBV DNA (Hepatitis B viral DNA level)
	3. Screening for liver cancer with Alpha fetoprotein (AFP)
3. Imaging studies of the liver
	1. Ultrasound (to screen for hepatocellular cancer)
	2. Fibroscan (to assess fibrosis, which will help determine need for treatment)

The tests above help determine the stage of Hepatitis B infection and whether treatment is indicated. Although treatment is not curative, it is thought to improve outcomes when indicated. *Of note, patients with Hepatitis B can develop hepatocellular cancer (HCC) even in the absence of cirrhosis so screening for HCC is very important in these patients.*

Depending on the stage of Hepatitis B infection that the patient has, and their liver function, they may be followed by their primary care doctor, a liver specialist or infectious disease specialist.

We have attached a **list** of Liver clinics in Massachusetts where the patient may receive care if needed.

If you have questions, please contact the DPH Division of Epidemiology at 617-983-6800.

Massachusetts Department of Public Health

**List of Liver Clinics by County**

Barnstable

* Cape Cod Hospital 508-862-5565
* Falmouth Hospital 508-495-7160

Berkshire

* Berkshire Medical Center 413-499-8590
* Fairview Hospital 413-499-8590

Bristol

* Morton Hospital 508-828-7740
* Saint Anne’s Hospital 800-488-5959
* Southcoast Health 508-973-2661
* Sturdy Memorial Hospital 508-222-2021

Essex

* Beverly Hospital 978-232-1120
* Anna Jaques Hospital 978-465-4622
* Lahey Medical Center – Peabody 978-538-4678
* Salem Hospital 844-839-8299

Hampden

* Baystate Medical Center 413-794-7364
* Holyoke Medical Center 413-540-5048

Middlesex

* Cambridge Hospital 617-665-1552
* Emerson Hospital 978-287-3835
* Everett Hospital 617-665-1552
* Gastro Health 508-620-9200
* Integrated Gastroenterology Consultants 978-459-6737
* Lahey Hospital & Medical Center 781-744-8740
* Lowell General Hospital 978-937-6000
* Melrose Wakefield Hospital 781-979-3000
* Mount Auburn Hospital 617-498-9550
* Newton-Wellesley Hospital 617-969-1227

Norfolk

* Atrius Health – Weymouth 617-657-6440
* Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital – Milton 617-313-1468
* Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital – Needham 781-444-6460
* Quincy Medical Group 217-222-6550 Ext. 6204
* South Shore Hospital 781-331-2922
* South Shore Internal Medicine Associates 617-698-8855

Plymouth

* Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital – Plymouth 508-747-1560

Suffolk

* Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center 617-632-1070
* Boston Medical Center 617-638-6525
* Brigham and Women’s Hospital 617-732-6389
* Brigham and Women’s Faulkner Hospital 617-983-7848
* Lemuel Shattuck Hospital 617-971-3443
* Massachusetts General Hospital 617-724-6006
* New England Baptist Hospital 617-754-5000
* St. Elizabeth’s Medical Center 617-562-5432
* Tufts Medical Center 617-636-5883

Worcester

* Heywood Hospital 978-669-5522
* New England Consultants in Gastroenterology 508-872-0508
* Tri-River Family Health Center 508-278-5573
* UMass Memorial Medical Center 855-862-7763
* UMass Memorial Medical Group – Marlborough 508-334-3068
* UMass Memorial Medical Group – Northborough Crossing 774-570-5000
* Worcester Medical Center 508-425-5446