

The Hepatitis Foundation of New Zealand

Who are we?



The Hepatitis Foundation of New Zealand is a not-for-profit organisation, funded by the Ministry of Health to provide a health monitoring programme for people living with chronic hepatitis B.

What do we offer?

We provide free lifelong monitoring for all New Zealanders with chronic hepatitis B, as well as for anyone with the virus who is eligible for free health care.

Our programme is committed to help primary care physicians with the ongoing care of their hepatitis B patients.

We provide your patients with blood tests, education and clinical oversight of their hepatitis B infection. You will be kept informed of your patient's management, through letters and copies of results.

We ask that you also copy us into any investigations or results relating to the management of hepatitis B; LFTs, hepatitis serology, AFP, liver ultrasounds that you might request.

Patients enrolled receive long-term monitoring through the Hepatitis Foundation, including six-monthly blood tests (or as required), information, education and support, home visits if required and free testing of other family members.

Patient management: the Hepatitis B Monitoring Programme

Regular monitoring of hepatitis B is vital in reducing the morbidity and mortality from hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC - primary liver failure).

Research shows six-monthly monitoring of chronic hepatitis B patients is the gold standard of care to help reduce the risk of liver disease (including HCC)¹.

Blood tests can detect liver disease, HCC and cirrhosis.

Under the Hepatitis B Monitoring Programme, people living with hepatitis B are offered regular blood tests to check whether they are

still infected with the virus, including:

- HBsAg - to determine continued viral infection
- HBeAg - if positive, it indicates a high level of infectivity
- LFTs (in particular ALT and AST) - assess for active liver inflammation. Anti-viral therapy may be considered
- AFP - screen for HH (also elevated during pregnancy).

¹ Fung, J et al. Improved survival with screening for hepatocellular carcinoma in chronic hepatitis B. New Zealand Medical Journal 2004; 117:1206.



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PO Box 647, Whakatane 3158

Phone: 0800 33 20 10

Fax: (07) 307 1266

Email: hepteam@hfnz.nz

Web: www.hepatitisfoundation.org.nz