

Proposed Health Code Amendment: Hepatitis B Reporting

Summary

The NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene is requesting that the Board of Health amend §13.03(b)(3)(A) of the NYC Health Code to require laboratories to report all hepatitis B virus (HBV) DNA test results, including negative results. The Health Department currently requires laboratories to report only positive HBV DNA results, in addition to other positive HBV test results. The proposed amendment was presented at the September 12, 2017 Board of Health meeting (video available [here](#)) and will be considered for adoption at the December 5, 2017 meeting.

Background and Purpose

The number of HBV cases is rising nationally and in New York City. More than 100,000 New Yorkers are estimated to be living with chronic HBV, with 8,439 new cases diagnosed in 2016, an increase of 18.8% since 2013. Chronic HBV can lead to serious health issues, including cirrhosis and liver cancer. All persons with chronic HBV infection require linkage to care and regular monitoring for liver damage and other complications; a subset require treatment with antiviral medications.

HBV DNA testing is performed on individuals who have tested positive for HBV. HBV DNA tests measure viral load. For patients already diagnosed with chronic HBV, DNA test results provide important information regarding infectiousness, treatment eligibility, and risk for development of liver cancer. For patients being treated for HBV, DNA test results provide information regarding treatment response.

Without negative HBV DNA test results, the Health Department has limited knowledge regarding whether patients with chronic HBV are receiving appropriate follow-up testing. Mandated reporting of negative HBV DNA test results will allow the Health Department to estimate the proportion of New Yorkers infected with HBV who are appropriately tested and linked to care; identify gaps in access to care; develop targeted interventions to increase linkage to care and improve provider knowledge of HBV testing and treatment guidelines; and increase monitoring to reduce HBV-related morbidity and mortality.

Opportunity to Comment

A **public hearing** will be held from **10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on October 25, 2017** at:

NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th St., Room 14-43
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Written comments can be submitted **on or before 5:00 p.m. on October 25, 2017** by:

- **Website.** NYC rules website at <http://rules.cityofnewyork.us>
- **Email.** resolutioncomments@health.nyc.gov
- **Mail.** NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street, CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132
- **Fax.** NYC DOHMH, 347-396-6087

Additional Information

Full text of the proposed resolution can be found [here](#). Questions regarding this resolution can be directed to Dr. Ann Winters (awinters@health.nyc.gov). Note that comments must be made via the above channels to be part of the official record considered by the Board of Health.