

PREFACE

Pediatric Hepatitis Report

This report was prepared by PKIDs (Parents of Kids with Infectious Diseases) in cooperation with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to provide assistance to parents, family members, caregivers, teachers, social workers and medical professionals who have contact with children with viral hepatitis. Its goal is to help these people understand these diseases, how they are transmitted, how they affect a child's health and what treatment options are available.

PKIDs, established in 1997, is an independent, nonprofit organization committed to supporting parents whose children have chronic, viral infectious diseases and to preventing disease transmission through safe health practices.

This report was compiled from a variety of sources including the World Wide Web, personal interviews and published materials. Every attempt has been made to confirm the information contained in the report. If you find information that needs to be updated, please contact PKIDs. The information contained in this report is not meant to take the place of advice given to you by your attorney, physician or psychiatrist. Please consult with professionals before taking any action concerning your child's physical, emotional or legal well-being.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Public Health Service

Dear Reader:

When children have been diagnosed with chronic hepatitis B or hepatitis C, parents and caregivers make great efforts to cope with the many changes that such diagnoses might engender. Parents struggle to understand what the diagnosis means, what type(s) of medical care will afford their child the best chance of avoiding life-threatening health problems, and how to prevent further transmission of these infections. As medical developments and treatment protocols in this field are constantly evolving, Parents of Kids with Infectious Diseases (PKIDs), a voluntary health organization, in cooperation with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), has prepared a guide for parents and caregivers to aid in their search for information to help them care for their children.

The mission of PKIDs is to educate the public about infectious diseases, the methods of prevention and transmission, and the latest advances in medicine; to eliminate the social stigma borne by the infected; and to assist the families of children living with HIV/AIDS, hepatitis, or other chronic, viral infectious diseases with emotional, financial, and informational support.

This guide helps to fulfill the mission of PKIDs by providing a comprehensive body of information on hepatitis B and hepatitis C, including causes, prevention, treatment, other organizations and support groups dealing with these diseases, and parents' stories of how they have dealt with the issues facing other parents. We at CDC think that the information in this guide will be helpful to all parents facing these challenges.

Sincerely,

Harold S. Margolis, M.D.
Director
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