Hepatitis D

Information for hepatitis B providers

What Is Hepatitis D?

Hepatitis D is a liver infection caused by the hepatitis D virus (HDV) that results in the most severe form of viral hepatitis. Only people who are living with or at risk for hepatitis B can contract hepatitis D, and 1 in 20 people with HBV are estimated to be coinfected with HDV.

Why Should I Test My HBV Patients for HDV?

Hepatitis D can cause more rapid progression to cirrhosis and liver cancer than hepatitis B alone. HBV/HDV patients will require different treatment recommendations to manage their co-infection.

Who Should Be Tested?

- Patients originating from Africa, Eastern Europe, the Middle East, Mongolia, India, Pakistan, Central Asia, or the Amazonian River Basin
- Patients who are on treatment for HBV but are not responding to treatment or have abnormal liver tests
- Patients with cirrhosis



How Can I Test My Patients?

Start with the HDV antibody test, which is the first step in diagnosing an HBV/HDV coinfection. If the antibody test is positive, this should be followed up with an HDV RNA test to confirm a current infection. Testing is available from: Centers for Disease Control& Prevention, ARUP Laboratories, Quest Diagnostics and LabCorp.

How Can I Manage an HBV/HDV Patient?

Hepcludex is an antiviral medication used to treat HDV infection in adults without cirrhosis or those with compensated liver disease. Hepcludex was approved by the U.S. FDA in May 2026 and it is currently the only U.S. FDA approved and recommended treatment for HDV infection. A variety of other treaments are in the research pipeline as well. You can find currently enrolling clinical trials here.

TheHepatitis B Foundation is anational nonprofit research and disease advocacy organization for hepatitis B. It established Hepatitis Delta Connect as a dedicated program in 2016 to provide information and support for those affected by hepatitis D.

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