A Guide to Interpreting Hep B Lab Results

As health professionals, you have the ability to help those who are at risk for hepatitis B. Below is a flowchart on what tests to order, how to read the results, and how to help infected patients.

**RESULTS**

- **(-) HBsAg and (+) HBsAb and (-) HbcAb**
  - **Immune** (by previous vaccination)

- **(-) HBsAg and (-) HBsAb and (-) HbcAb**
  - **Vaccinate** (no immunity)

- **(-) HBsAg and (+) HBsAb and (+) HbcAb**
  - **Immun** (due to resolved infection)

- **(+ HBsAg and (-) HBsAb and (+) HbcAb**
  - **Chronic Hepatitis B Infection**

**ICD 10 code Z11.59**
- **HBsAg** (hepatitis B Surface Antigen)
- **HBsAb** (hepatitis B Surface Antibody)
- **HbcAb** (hepatitis B core Antibody)

**Order these tests**
- **EVALUATE** status of HBV using guidelines (CDC, AASLD)
- **VACCINATE** against hepatitis A
- **DO SURVEILLANCE** for HCC at 6-12 month intervals in at-risk patients
- **COUNSEL** patient to:
  - Seek health care from hepatitis B experienced clinician
  - Have household members & sex partners tested and vaccinated if appropriate
  - Protect non-immune sex partners
  - Avoid sharing razors, toothbrushes or personal injection equipment; clean up blood spills with bleach
  - Cover cuts and skin lesions
  - Minimize consumption of alcohol

**Monitor closely with LFTs every one to two years especially with chemo/immunosuppressive therapy**

**https://www.sfhepbfree.org**