

Measuring Hepatitis B Vaccination for Newborns Prior to Hospital Discharge Is Endorsed by the National Quality Forum (NQF)

The National Quality Forum (NQF) is a widely looked to standards-setting organization for health-care facilities. In response to a submission by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the NQF endorsed as a standard the reporting of “Hepatitis B Coverage Among All Live Newborn Infants Prior to Hospital or Birthing Facility Discharge.”

Specifically, NQF Measure #0475 recommends that hospitals measure and report the “percent of live newborn infants that receive hepatitis B vaccination before discharge at each single hospital/birthing

facility during given time period (one year),” excluding infants whose parents refuse vaccination.

Hospitals that adopt this measure will be taking an important step to ensure that no baby born to an HBsAg-positive mother slips through the cracks and becomes infected.

▶ For more information on the NQF hepatitis B birth dose endorsement, visit www.qualityforum.org/MeasureDetails.aspx?actid=0&SubmissionId=287#k=0475.

