



## R E S O L U T I O N

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REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR  
THE WESTERN PACIFIC

COMITE RÉGIONAL DU  
PACIFIQUE OCCIDENTAL

WPR/RC64.R5  
24 October 2013

## HEPATITS B CONTROL THROUGH VACCINATION: SETTING THE TARGET

The Regional Committee,

Recalling resolution WPR/RC56.R8 that in 2005 established an interim milestone to reduce hepatitis B antigen (HBsAg) seroprevalence to less than 2% in five-year-old children by 2012 and a goal of less than 1% HBsAg seroprevalence in the Western Pacific Region;

Acknowledging the success of the majority of Member States in achieving the less than 2% prevalence milestone;

Mindful of the continued burden of disease, disability and death from chronic hepatitis B infection in the Western Pacific Region;

Aware that the hepatitis B vaccination regimen (including the birth dose) is highly effective at preventing perinatal and horizontal transmission of the virus;

Mindful that the hepatitis B birth dose vaccination also provides opportunities to strengthen immunization and other public health programmes, especially maternal and child health programmes;

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Recognizing the recommendations for hepatitis B control developed by the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on Immunization and Vaccine-Preventable Diseases in the Western Pacific Region in 2012,

1. DECIDES that the Western Pacific Region should aim to reduce HBsAg seroprevalence to less than 1% in five-year-old children by 2017;
2. URGES Member States:
  - (1) to ensure at least 95% coverage of the eligible population at the national level of the hepatitis B vaccination regimen (including the birth dose), and at least 85% coverage in all districts;
  - (2) to coordinate immunization with broader maternal and neonatal care efforts;
  - (3) to explore opportunities to integrate hepatitis B vaccination programmes with broader immunization and other health programmes;
  - (4) to monitor the implementation of hepatitis B control plans;
3. REQUESTS the Regional Director:
  - (1) to continue providing technical support to Member States and advocate hepatitis B control;
  - (2) to report progress on hepatitis B control periodically to the Regional Committee.