

Status of Hepatitis B Immunization Program

To effectively control the infection of hepatitis B in Taiwan and Fukien area, the hepatitis B immunization program began in Taiwan, the Pescadores, Kinmen, and Matsu in July 1984, initially to babies born to HBsAg positive mothers at no cost, and to all newborns beginning July 1986. The immunization schedule is shown in Table 1. Expectant mothers are encouraged to take hepatitis tests. Babies born to HBeAg (-) or low HBsAg RPHA value (lower than 2,560) mothers are given one dose of hepatitis B vaccine each at one, five and nine weeks after birth and at 12th month; babies born to HBeAg (+) or high HBsAg RPHA value (equal to or higher than 2,560 times) are given one dose of HBIG within 24 hours after birth in addition to the four doses of hepatitis B vaccines. (Tables 1). Test results of expectant mothers and information of babies vaccinated with HBIG and/or hepatitis B vaccines are sent to the Information Center of the Department of Health for follow-up and statistical analysis. In addition to health bureaus and stations, 1081 hospitals and clinics have been contracted for the immunization program.

The statistical data of the Information Center/DOH show that between