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Response to Actions Taken During December ACIP Meeting

Another disappointing ACIP meeting concluded today.

After heated debates and intense confusion, the new ACIP committee members voted to remove the longstanding recommendation for Hepatitis B vaccine at birth, ignoring over 3 decades of data showing how the hepatitis B vaccine given at birth prevents lifelong infection, liver cancer, and early death. The reversal to risk-based recommendation takes us back to the 1980's when thousands of vulnerable infants fell through the cracks and developed chronic infection. There is no cure.

Their new recommendation also calls for adding infant blood draws after each dose, despite lack of data on utility or feasibility of such a recommendation. Leading medical and patient advocacy groups joined forces to voice their [strong objections](#).

The California Immunization Coalition joins professional groups across the country in denouncing the actions of the new ACIP members in their decision to remove hepatitis B recommendations, along with their subsequent discussion about the vaccine schedule which seeks to undermine public confidence in vaccines and calls into doubt decades of informed, scientific rigor by experts and millions of lives saved.

We are grateful to live and work in California where [vaccine recommendations](#) are based on guidelines from trusted medical professional organizations. Updates and guidance for California providers and families will be posted soon on the CDPH website.

Here are some excellent resources to help you answer questions from your communities:

- A full review of the safety, effectiveness, and public health impact of universal Hepatitis B vaccination at birth can be found from the [Vaccine Integrity Project](#).
- Fact check of the ACIP meeting and recommendations on how to communicate the facts effectively from [The Evidence Collective](#).

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