Hepatitis B: Confronting Stigma and Dismantling Discrimination

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Stigma (health)

- Being devalued by individuals or communities on the basis of real or perceived health status
Discrimination (health)

• The legal, institutional and procedural ways people are denied access to their rights because of their real or perceived health status

More general definition:
• The unjust or prejudicial treatment of different categories of people, especially on the grounds of race, age, or sex
Why is there stigma and discrimination associated with a vaccine preventable disease?
Toolkit: Understanding and Combating Stigma

• Developed by the Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO) and Hep B United partners

• Target audience:
  • Healthcare Providers
  • Community Health Advocates

• Small group activities/discussion topics
  • Develop skills to confront stigma and discrimination
Stigma Toolkit

• Modules to practice ways to share health information
• Ways to take action to address stigma and discrimination
• Hepatitis B Fact Sheets
• How to create stigma-free healthcare and other environments
• Identify necessary system level changes
Overcoming Structural Barriers

• Provide Enabling Services
  • Multilingual services
  • Transportation
  • Outreach

• Address Social Determinants of Health

• Create Safe Space

• Normalize hepatitis B testing, vaccination, and treatment

• Show that Hepatitis B does not define individuals
Stigma: Who should be held accountable?

• Perpetuated by fear and discrimination
• Need to change perceptions
• Ensure access to accurate information
• Speak up if you witness stigma or discrimination
Definitive Cure for Hepatitis B Related Stigma

• Empower individuals and communities

• Eliminate institutional discrimination at the societal level
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AAPCHO Stigma Toolkit:
www.aapcho.org/resources_db/understanding-and-combating-stigma-a-toolkit-for-improving-care-and-support-for-people-affected-by-hbv/