MALAWI POLICY ON HEPATITIS B BIRTHDOSE: CAN’T WAIT TO START IMPLEMENTATION

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Local studies (Researches, Hospitals and Malawi Blood Transfusion Services) have shown varying prevalence of 1.53 -17% in HBV with a pooled prevalence of 8.1%

However, population-based survey estimates for Hep B prevalence are not yet available. But the protocol to conduct a population-based survey estimate has been developed using HIV MPHIA samples with support from CDC
Hepatitis B Birthdose is one of the key service coverage targets for elimination of Viral Hepatitis by 2030 as advocated by WHO.

In Malawi mathematical modelling estimates were done to show the impact of Hep B Birthdose with and without treatment from 2020 to 2095.

The figure below shows that if 90% HBV Birthdose coverage is added as a prevention method, deaths and infections can be significantly reduced by 2060.
In 2017, Malawi MoH Authorities established the VH Program in the HIV/AIDS Directorate for effective integration.

Not only is the Minister of Health in Malawi ready to be the guest of honour in launching both National Viral Hepatitis Strategy and Viral Hepatitis Management Guidelines; but also the Parliament approved the budget of MK40 Million (US$39,000) for the procurement of Hepatitis B Birth Dose in 2022/2023 Financial Year.
Conclusions

- Malawi has already a resilient Expanded Programme of Immunization (EPI) with pentavalent coverage above 95%.
- We are requesting GAVI and other multilateral health partners and bilateral partners to support Malawi Health System financially in implementing Hep B Birthdose effectively.