

LIST OF RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATION NO. 1

The Sub-Committee recommends that the Federal Government, in cooperation with the provinces and territories, develop and implement a universal immunization program for neonates against hepatitis B. The Sub-Committee further recommends that the Federal Government fund at least 50% of the costs of this immunization program and that appropriate cost-sharing agreements be made with the provinces and territories.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 2

The Committee recommends that the Federal Government, in cooperation with the provinces and territories, develop a "catch-up" program to immunize children at 10 years of age, the purpose being to effect immunization prior to the children's reaching high school age. The Sub-Committee further recommends that the Federal Government fund at least 50% of the costs of this catch-up immunization program and that appropriate cost-sharing agreements be made with the provinces and territories.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 3

The Sub-Committee recommends that the Federal Government develop a program, in cooperation with the provinces and the territories, to routinely test pregnant women for hepatitis B infection. Where the test is positive, the baby should receive hepatitis B immune globulin and hepatitis B vaccine in accordance with the recommendations of the Canadian Immunization Guide.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 4

The Committee recommends that the Federal Government, through the Departments of Health and Welfare and Supply and Services, conduct a study on the pricing of hepatitis B vaccine: first, to determine why the prices of identical vaccines vary significantly between different countries; second, to ensure that the negotiations on price with vaccine manufacturer(s) are conducted with full knowledge of prices paid in other jurisdictions; and, third, to ensure that those vaccines of acceptable quality that are supplied to Canada will be available at the lowest possible price on the world market.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 5

The Sub-Committee recommends that Health and Welfare Canada, in cooperation with provincial and territorial health departments, develop and implement information and education programs to combat hepatitis B, to prevent the spread of this disease in Canada. Such programs should be directed to the Canadian public generally, and to identified high-risk groups and communities.