

RECOMMENDATION NO. 6

The Sub-Committee recommends that the Federal Government develop a program to deal with the possibility that hepatitis B might be spread within Canada by immigrants from regions of the world where the disease is endemic and occurs at intermediate or high incidence among the population. Such a program could include universal immunization of all immigrants to Canada, prior to their entry into this country, or a selective immunization program to apply only to immigrants from regions of intermediate and high endemicity.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 7

As an alternative to Recommendation No. 6, the Sub-Committee recommends that the Federal Government study and evaluate the need for, and potential effectiveness of, a program for the screening of immigrants to Canada for hepatitis B infection. The Sub-Committee further recommends that, where an immigrant to Canada tests positive for hepatitis B infection, immunization of all uninfected and susceptible family members against hepatitis B shall be mandatory, prior to their entry into this country.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 8

The Sub-Committee recommends that Health and Welfare Canada review the effectiveness of the program requiring that all cases of hepatitis B diagnosed in Canada be reported to the Laboratory Centre for Disease Control, to ensure that reporting of this disease will be as complete as possible.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 9

The Sub-Committee recommends that Health and Welfare Canada review the need for a comprehensive epidemiological study of hepatitis B in Canada and, if appropriate, design and implement, in cooperation with the provinces and territories, an epidemiological study to determine the incidence of hepatitis B in this country.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 10

The Sub-Committee recommends that the Federal Government, through Health and Welfare Canada, take the lead in initiating discussions with provincial and territorial governments, and with associations of health-care professionals, toward the development and implementation of a national policy on the mandatory testing and immunization of health-care professionals for hepatitis B.