Hepatitis B is a viral infection that causes inflammation of the liver. 1 out of 12 Asian Americans are chronically infected with hepatitis B. 2 out of 3 Asian Americans that are infected and don’t know it.

What is Hepatitis B?
Hepatitis B is a liver infection caused by the Hepatitis B virus (HBV). Hepatitis B is transmitted by:

• Having unprotected sex with an infected person
• Sharing contaminated razors, toothbrushes, or needles
• Coming in contact with infected blood (e.g., transfusion, open wounds)
• Mother to baby during vaginal or cesarean birth

If left untreated, hepatitis B can cause scarring of the liver, liver failure, cancer, or even death.

Hepatitis B Signs and Symptoms
• Fatigue
• Fever
• Loss of appetite
• Nausea and vomiting
• Yellow eyes and skin (jaundice)
• Clay-colored bowel movement and dark urine
• Pain on the right side of the stomach
• Joint pain

Key Facts
• Hepatitis B is preventable. You can prevent the infection by getting vaccinated before being exposed to the virus.
• Know your status. If you think you’ve been exposed; ask your doctor to get tested.
• If you have hepatitis B, talk to your doctor about starting an FDA-approved treatment regimen.

Hepatitis B Treatment Options
For Children
• Intron A (interferon alpha-2b): Patients with chronic hepatitis B 1 year of age or older with compensated liver disease.
• Hepsera (adefovir dipivoxil): Patients with chronic hepatitis B aged 12 years or older.

For Adults
• Viread (tenofovir): Patients with chronic hepatitis B.
• Vemlidy (tenofovir alafenamide): Patients with chronic hepatitis B with compensated liver disease.
• Baraclude (entecavir): Patients with chronic hepatitis B with evidence of active viral replication.
• Epivir HBV (lamivudine): Patients with chronic hepatitis B associated with HBV replication and active liver inflammation.
• Pegasys (pegylated interferon): Patients with HBeAg positive and HBeAg negative chronic hepatitis B who have compensated liver disease and evidence of viral replication and liver inflammation.
• Tyzeka (telbivudine): Patients with chronic hepatitis B with evidence of viral replication and either evidence of persistent elevations in serum aminotransferases (ALT or AST) or histologically active disease.

Additional Resources
For more information on Hepatitis B, visit FDA’s Hepatitis B Resources page at www.fda.gov/forpatients/illness/hepatitisB.
For more information on minority health go to www.fda.gov/minorityhealth.

The FDA, an agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, protects the public health by assuring the safety, effectiveness, and security of human and veterinary drugs, vaccines and other biological products for human use, and medical devices. The agency also is responsible for the safety and security of our nation’s food supply, cosmetics, dietary supplements, and products that give off electronic radiation, and for regulating tobacco products.