

recommended injection site, but the ventrogluteal (not the dorsogluteal) muscle can be used.

Several countries have noted resurgence in later onset of **vitamin K deficiency bleeding (VKDB)** after practicing orally administered prophylaxis ([American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Fetus and Newborn, 2003](#)). Current recommendations are that vitamin K be given to all newborns as a single intramuscular dose of 0.5 to 1.0 mg ([American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Fetus and Newborn, 2003](#); [Fetus and Newborn Committee, 2014](#)). Additional study is needed on the efficacy, safety, and bioavailability of oral preparations and on the most effective dosing regimens to prevent VKDB.

## **Hepatitis B Vaccine Administration**

To decrease the incidence of hepatitis B virus in children and its serious consequences (cirrhosis and liver cancer) in adulthood, the first of three doses of hepatitis B vaccine are recommended soon after birth and before hospital discharge for all newborns born to hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg)-negative mothers ([Pickering and American Academy of Pediatrics, Committee on Infectious Diseases, 2012](#)). The injection is given in the vastus lateralis muscle because this site is associated with a better immune response than is the dorsogluteal area. Giving the infant concentrated oral sucrose can reduce the pain of the injection ([Stevens, Yamada, Lee, et al, 2013](#)).

Preterm infants born to HBsAg-negative women should be vaccinated as early as 30 days of age regardless of gestational age or birth weight. Infants born to HBsAg-positive mothers should be immunized within 12 hours after birth with hepatitis B vaccine and hepatitis B immune globulin (HBIG) at separate sites, regardless of gestational age or birth weight ([Pickering and American Academy of Pediatrics, Committee on Infectious Diseases, 2012](#)). In Canada, hepatitis B vaccine is given to newborns only if their mothers are HBsAg positive at birth (see [Immunizations, Chapter 6](#)).

## **Newborn Screening for Disease**

A number of genetic disorders can be detected in the newborn period. There is no national policy for newborn screening in the