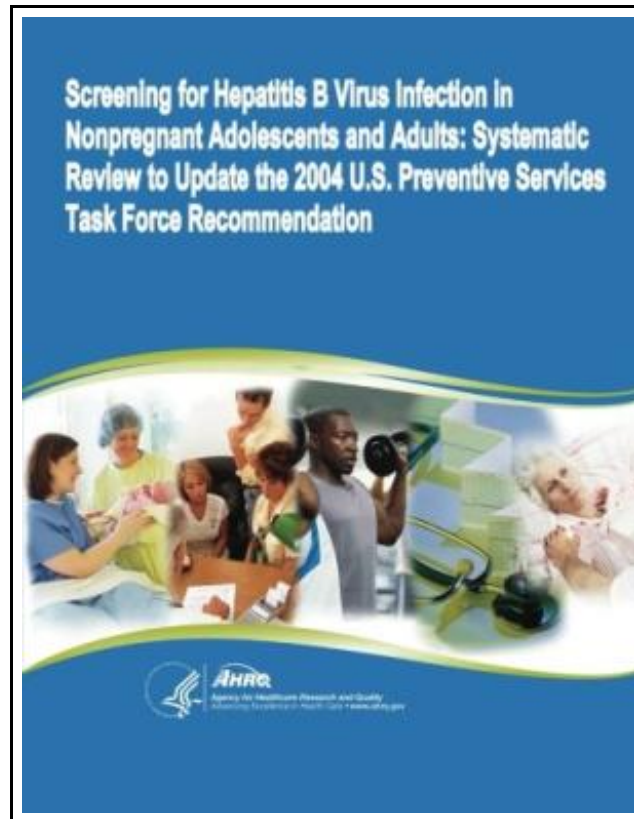


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Createspace, United States, 2014. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 279 x 216 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.This report was commissioned by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) in order to update its 2004 recommendation on screening for hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection in nonpregnant adolescents and adults. In 2004, the USPSTF recommended against screening asymptomatic persons in the general population for chronic HBV infection, based on a lack of evidence showing that screening improves morbidity or mortality associated with HBV infection; that the prevalence of HBV infection is low in the general population; and that the majority of infected individuals do not develop chronic infection, cirrhosis, or other HBV-related liver disease. The USPSTF noted the poor predictive value of screening strategies for identifying persons at high risk for infection and limited evidence on the effectiveness of treatment interventions. The USPSTF also pointed out that routine vaccination has reduced the number of new HBV infections, particularly for children and adolescents, decreasing the burden of chronic HBV infection. HBV is a double-stranded DNA virus enclosed in a nucleocapsid protein (core antigen) surrounded by an envelope protein (surface antigen, or sAg). Serologic markers are usually the initial tests used to determine HBV infection status; subsequent tests in persons with markers indicating active infection are performed to determine the presence and level of circulating HBV DNA. Acute HBV infection (within 6 months after infection) is typically characterized by the initial appearance of HBV surface antigen (HBsAg) without other serologic markers, followed by the appearance of immunoglobulin M (IgM) antibody to the HBV core antigen (anti-HBc). Chronic infection is characterized by the persistent presence of HBsAg for longer than 6 months; HBV DNA levels can fluctuate and are not a reliable marker of chronic infection. The presence of...



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