REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL: Global prevalence of Hepatitis B Virus Infection

Update of a literature search of Hepatitis b surface antigen prevalence (HBsAg).

1. Introduction
The WHO Initiative for Vaccine Research (IVR)¹ is interested in the update of the update of the literature search of Hepatitis b virus infection prevalence. We seek proposals to perform the update of a literature search and data extraction of selected variables.

2. Background
Hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection is a major public health problem worldwide. Globally, in 2015, an estimated 257 million people were living with chronic HBV infection². HBV infection can cause liver diseases including subclinical infection of the liver, acute self-limited hepatitis, and fulminant hepatitis. HBV is also a major human carcinogen and the sequelae of chronic HBV infection are cirrhosis and primary liver cancer (hepatocellular carcinoma, HCC).

A safe and effective vaccine against hepatitis B has been available since 1982 and prevents HBV infections when it is given before or shortly after exposure. The vaccine has also been associated with reductions in the incidence and mortality from HCC in time series analyses. The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends the integration of HBV vaccine into routine national immunization programs and the universal administration of a hepatitis B dose within 24 hours of birth. The timely administration of HBV vaccine at birth followed by at least two other timely doses can prevent up to 95% of mother-to-child transmission that would have occurred without vaccine.

3. Research Objectives
The primary objective of this RFP is to solicit the update of the literature search and data extraction of the sero-prevalence of hepatitis B infection, on a global and country level and for other variables of relevance (e.g. age).

Successful applicant teams will use search strategies to perform a systematic search of the peer-reviewed literature in order to include all relevant publications. The search should be conducted in accordance with international standards for the conduct and reporting of systematic reviews, and should include but need not be limited to the following objectives:

- Perform a systematic search of the peer-reviewed literature to identify relevant publications.
- Critical appraisal of the evidence including risk of bias assessment.
- Quality control of 10%-50% of a previous search.

4. Proposal submission
The following information should be included within the submission (maximum of 5 pages):

- Project description with goals and objectives;
- General information about the planned research team, including roles and responsibilities on this project;
- Information on anticipated involvement of any partner organizations, if applicable;
- Project budget, included costs per task and, if appropriate, the applicable Programme Support Cost;
- Projected timeline that consider the deliverables;
- Anticipated challenges for this particular project regarding time, organization, and management and how the research team proposes to meet those challenges;

¹ IVR's mission is to guide, provide vision, enable, support, and facilitate the development, clinical evaluation and worldwide access to safe, effective and affordable vaccines against infectious diseases of public health importance, especially in developing countries. See also, http://www.who.int/immunization/research/en/
• Declaration of conflicts of interest for all named persons on the research team (with WHO disclosure form); and
• Contact information for your organization including the full name of the organization, and address.

5. Deliverables
A search strategy is due within 1.5 weeks of agreement signature. An interim report with a flowchart of studies identified and included is due by 30 January 2018. The final product will be a database including specific variables that will be provided by the WHO Secretariat.

6. Eligibility
They will be selected on the basis of:
• Experience of the principal investigator and the team’s expertise conducting and disseminating similar literature research.
• Methodological rigor of their proposed approach, including feasibility of timelines,
• Proposed timelines.
• Proposed budget/overall value of the project,
• Adequacy of mechanisms for addressing any intellectual and financial conflicts of interest.
• Content expertise on the team in immunization and vaccines is desirable although not essential.

Applicants are expected to disclose any possible conflict of interest capable of influencing their judgments, including personal, political, proprietary, family, academic and financial. A WHO disclosure form for Declaration Conflict of Interest must be completed by all named persons on the research team and submitted with the RFP application.

Upon receipt, IVR staff will screen all applications for completeness and for compliance with the parameters of this competition. IVR staff will rank complete and compliant applications based on the mentioned evaluation criteria.

Final authority on funding approval rests with the WHO Secretariat. WHO will notify the successful applicants directly. WHO is unable to provide individual feedback on unsuccessful applications.

7. How to Apply
Proposals must be submitted by email as an electronic version to vaccineresearch@who.int. Electronic submission must be received by 5 pm (Geneva time) on 30 November 2017 and, should include “IVR – Update of the literature search on global prevalence of Hepatitis B Virus Infection” in the subject line.

Proposals that are incomplete, or received after the due date, will not be reviewed.