

# Easy B Facts

## What is HBV Viral Load?

Hepatitis B virus (HBV) DNA contains the proteins that make up the virus – that is the material that the virus uses to make more copies of itself. A blood test is taken to find out if someone has HBV and, if so, how many hepatitis B viruses are in the blood. The results of the viral load test are listed as copies or units per milliliter.

Adults who have high levels of HBV DNA (the number can reach billions) may require treatment. HBV DNA is also measured to see if medications are effective and reducing viral load.

People who have high viral load counts over a long period of time are more likely to have more damage to the liver.

### ***It Is Important to Remember . . .***

- If you have chronic hepatitis B you should be checked regularly by a doctor
- One of the tests used is a blood test called a viral load test
- The viral load test is one of the tests used to find out if HBV medicines are needed
- The viral load test is also one of the tests used to see if treatment worked and reduced your viral load
- A high viral load over a long period of time may mean that the liver is more likely to become damaged



**HBV ADVOCATE**

[www.hbvadvocate.org](http://www.hbvadvocate.org)

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VERSION 4.4 • July 2015

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