

**2000 alPHa RESOLUTION NO. A00-6**

**TITLE: Hepatitis A Vaccination for High Risk Populations**

**SPONSOR:** The Regional Municipality of Durham

**WHEREAS** Hepatitis A is a self-limited disease of the liver that, while rarely fulminant, has symptoms of fatigue, anorexia, nausea, abdominal pain and jaundice that can last for weeks to months and with costs to the health care system and loss of productivity; and

**WHEREAS** Hepatitis A can cause further deterioration of the liver among those with chronic liver disease, including infection from Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C; and

**WHEREAS** a safe and effective vaccine is available to prevent Hepatitis A as a separate vaccine or in combination with Hepatitis B; and

**WHEREAS** outbreaks of Hepatitis A continue to occur among segments of the Ontario population requiring substantial resources to bring said outbreaks under control; and

**WHEREAS** high risk groups for acquiring Hepatitis A include men who have sex with men, injection drug users, persons with clotting-factor disorders, institutions for persons who have developmental disabilities, and children and adults in communities that have reported a greater risk of transmission (e.g. some religious communities); and

**WHEREAS** the combined Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B vaccine is comparable in cost to the Hepatitis A only vaccine;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa) urges the Government of Ontario to fund immediately vaccines against Hepatitis A (with or without Hepatitis B) for:

- Individuals at high risk of acquiring Hepatitis A.
- Individuals who have liver disease and would be adversely affected by acquiring Hepatitis A.

***Action from Conference:***

*Moved:* Larry O'Connor (Durham)

*Seconded:* Brian MacKay (Toronto)

**CARRIED**