

## HEALTH ISSUE

**Media** : Koran Sindo  
**Page** : 38  
**Circulation** : 200,000

**Date** : 19 August 2013  
**DoS** : 19 August 2013  
**Tone** : Neutral

**Hepatitis vaccine for 0 month old babies**

The high risk of hepatitis B infection among very young infants can be prevented by vaccination. Nearly two billion people are infected by hepatitis B and 450 million of them are hepatitis B carriers. Indonesia ranks third as the country with highest hepatitis B prevalence. People with hepatitis virus are 200 times more likely to have liver cancer and hepatitis B is much more easily transmitted than HIV virus. Hepatitis can be transmitted through blood, semen, and other body fluids from an infected person and mother-to-infant transmission occurs more, said Mohammad Juffrie, pediatrician, during Indonesian Pediatrician Association symposium. Doctors recommend hepatitis B vaccine to be given within 12 hours after birth as 70%-95% perinatal infection can be prevented by vaccination. Healthcare workers are also prone to contract the disease, with 2-10 times more likely to be infected, said Irsan Hasan, internist-hepatologist. The majority of people with hepatitis B do not show any specific symptoms and generally take medical examination at very late stage. There are four types of hepatitis virus (A, B, C, D).

**Person quoted (s):** Prof Dr Mohammad Juffrie PhD SpAK, pediatrician  
Dr Irsan Hasan SpPD-KGEH, internist-hepatologist  
Prof dr Tjandra Yoga Aditama SpP(K), internist and General Director of Disease Control and Sanitation,  
Health Ministry

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**Media** : Nova  
**Page** : 63  
**Circulation** : 626,084

**Date** : 19-25 August 2013  
**DoS** : 19 August 2013  
**Tone** : Neutral

### The importance of hepatitis b vaccine

Indonesian Pediatrician Association (IDAI) held press conference and dissemination of “The Importance of Hepatitis B Vaccine for 0-Day Babies” on Sunday (28/7). Within 12 hours after birth, hepatitis B vaccine should be given to maximize prevention, said Badriul Hegar, pediatrician and IDAI Chairman. Nearly 70%-95% perinatal hepatitis B infection can be prevented via vaccination, said Mohammad Jufrie, internist. In addition to infants, healthcare workers have high risk to get infected by hepatitis B through needles, knives or other sharp objects and mucous membrane and body fluids, said Irsan Hasan, internist-hepatologist.

**Person quoted (s):** dr. Badriul Hegar Sp.A (K), Ph.D., pediatrician and IDAI Chairman  
Prof. Dr. Mohammad Jufrie, Ph.D, SpAK, internist  
Dr. Irsan Hasan, Sp.PD-KGEH. internist-hepatologist.

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## PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENT POLICY

**Media** : Republika  
**Page** : 20  
**Circulation** : 223,000

**Date** : 19 August 2013  
**DoS** : 19 August 2013  
**Tone** : Neutral

### Germany builds pharmaceutical plant worth Rp 1 trillion

A German-based pharmaceutical company will build a one-trillion rupiah plant to produce infusion and injection fluid, said Manogaran, Chairman for PT B Braun Medical Indonesia. Production capacity in the first phase will produce 75 million units per year and 150 million units per year in the second phase. The investment fund comes 100% from the corporation itself. The company has supported hospitals and health industry around the globe with affordable world-class products, said Meinrad Lugan, Board of Director PT B Braun Melsunger AG. The corporation will make Indonesia as Center of Excellence in Asia-Pacific region.

**Person quoted (s):** Manogaran, Chairman, PT B Braun Medical Indonesia  
Meinrad Lugan, Board of Director, PT B Braun Melsunger AG

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**Media** : Bloomberg Businessweek  
**Page** : 6  
**Circulation** : 30,000

**Date** : 19-25 August 2013  
**DoS** : 19 August 2013  
**Tone** : Neutral

### **Kalbe builds two milk plants**

PT Kalbe Farma Tbk will build two milk plants in Cikampek and Sukabumi, West Java at the end of 2013. A joint venture company PT Kalbe Milko Indonesia will build the Sukabumi plant. The additional milk plants will increase production capacity to 25,000 tons per year and it costs Rp350-450 billion to build the plants, said Vidjongtius, Finance Director, PT Kalbe.

**Person quoted (s):** Vidjongtius, Finance Director, PT Kalbe

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**Media** : Bloomberg Businessweek  
**Page** : 28-29  
**Circulation** : 30,000

**Date** : 19-25 August 2013  
**DoS** : 19 August 2013  
**Tone** : Neutral

### **Pharmaceutical industry: ready to lower margins**

Pharmaceutical industry had predicted rupiah depreciation early this year but does not anticipate worse exchange rate. The industry is vulnerable to exchange rate as almost 95% raw materials are imported using US\$ currency (greenback), said Syamsul Arifin, Advisory Board Member of Indonesian Pharmaceutical Industrialist Association (GP Farmasi). Drug producers will raise their prices, as they did twice earlier this year, if rupiah continues to depreciate against US dollar. However, the rupiah depreciation strikes most on generic drug producers as they use nearly 80% of imported raw materials. Drug producers will bear higher price by lowering their profit margins. Health Ministry will let brand-name drug price raise while suppressing generic drug price, affecting generic drug producers that sell products to government agency such as PT Indofarma Tbk. The company cannot determine selling price for its products so it needs to lower profit margins (-36% as estimated) and to make efficient production process, said John Guntar Sebayang, Finance Director, PT Indofarma. Despite low rupiah exchange rate, many drug producers have accumulated inventory since last year to anticipate it even though it has short life span, said Vidjongtius, Finance Director, PT Kalbe Farma Tbk. Pharmaceutical industry can grow smoothly without exchange rate fluctuation.

**Person quoted (s):** Syamsul Arifin, Advisory Board Member of GP Farmasi  
John Guntar Sebayang, Finance Director, PT Indofarma  
Vidjongtius, Finance Director, PT Kalbe Farma Tbk  
Nafsiah Mboi, Health Minister