

Appendix B: Provincial Case Definitions for Diseases of Public Health Significance

Disease: *Chlamydia trachomatis* infections

February 2019

***Chlamydia trachomatis* infections**

1.0 Provincial Reporting

Confirmed and probable cases of disease

2.0 Type of Surveillance

Case-by-case

3.0 Case Classification

3.1 Confirmed Case

Chlamydia trachomatis (*C. trachomatis*) detected in an appropriate clinical specimen (e.g., urogenital tract, rectal, or pharyngeal specimen).

3.2 Probable Case

Clinically compatible signs and symptoms in a person with an epidemiologic link to a laboratory-confirmed case.

4.0 Laboratory Evidence

4.1 Laboratory Confirmation

Any of the following will constitute a confirmed case of *C. trachomatis* infection:

- Positive *C. trachomatis* culture
- Positive for *C. trachomatis* nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT)

Laboratory testing that constitutes a confirmed case of *C. trachomatis* infection but is not routinely offered in Ontario:

- Positive for *C. trachomatis* antigen
- Positive for *C. trachomatis* IgM antibodies (for diagnosis of *C. trachomatis* pneumonia in infants <three months of age only)

4.2 Approved/Validated Tests

- Consult with laboratory with regards to testing and appropriate specimens.

4.3 Indications and Limitations

- Commercially available approved/validated tests should only be used on approved specimen types (e.g., cervical, urethral); results from non-approved specimen types would need validation.
- Culture has been the preferred method for medico-legal purposes. NAAT may be suitable, provided that positive results are confirmed by a different set of primers.

5.0 Clinical Evidence

A clinical consultation is necessary in probable cases for verification of signs and symptoms.

Pharyngeal and rectal infections are mostly asymptomatic, but rectal chlamydia can be associated with rectal pain and discharge.

Symptomatic females may present with a mucopurulent endocervical discharge with edema, dysuria, dyspareuria, erythema and easily induced endocervical bleeding.

Symptomatic males may present with urethral discharge, dysuria and frequency, non-specific urethral symptoms such as redness, itching, and swelling.

6.0 ICD 10 Code(s)

A56 Other sexually transmitted chlamydial diseases

7.0 Comments

Conjunctivitis in infants less than or equal to 28 days caused by *C. trachomatis* should be reported as ophthalmia neonatorum.

When considering re-infection, primary treatment failure and inadequate treatment please consider the following factors:

- Appropriate treatment provided considering Canadian Guidelines on Sexually Transmitted Infections;
- Treatment adherence;
- Necessary follow up completed (i.e. Test of cure undertaken if recommended);
- Avoidance of sexual activity during treatment period and seven days post treatment.

For surveillance purposes, if the above factors are met health units may consider 28 days for re-infection.

8.0 Sources

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Notifiable Disease Surveillance System: Chlamydia Trachomatis, Genital Infections - 1996 Case Definition [Internet]. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health & Human Services; 1996 [cited May 2, 2014]. Available from: <https://wwwn.cdc.gov/nndss/conditions/chlamydia-trachomatis-genital-infections/case-definition/1996/>

Public Health Agency of Canada. Chlamydia (Chlamydia trachomatis Infection). In: Case Definitions for Communicable Diseases under National Surveillance. Canada Communicable Disease Report. 2009;35S2.

Public Health Agency of Canada. Canadian Guidelines on Sexually Transmitted Infections [Internet]. Ottawa, ON: Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada; 2018 [cited May 15, 2018]. Available from: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/infectious-diseases/sexual-health-sexually-transmitted-infections/canadian-guidelines/sexually-transmitted-infections.html>

9.0 Document History

Table 1: History of Revisions

Revision Date	Document Section	Description of Revisions
December 2014	1.0 Provincial Reporting	Addition of “and probable”.
December 2014	5.0 Clinical Evidence	First sentence, “for verification of signs and symptoms” was added at the end of the sentence.
December 2014	8.0 Sources	All sources have been updated.
February 2019	General	Minor revisions were made to support the regulation change to Diseases of Public Health Significance

