

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

**Disease: Group B Streptococcal disease, neonatal**

Effective: February 2019

# Group B Streptococcal disease, neonatal

## 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

Laboratory confirmation of Group B *Streptococcus* (*Streptococcus agalactiae*) from a normally sterile site in a newborn (e.g., cerebrospinal fluid [CSF]), with clinically compatible signs and symptoms of invasive disease in a newborn up to 28 days after birth.

### 3.2 Probable Case

Clinically compatible signs and symptoms with a clinical diagnosis of invasive Group B Streptococcal disease in a newborn up to 28 days after birth, whose mother has laboratory confirmation of Group B *Streptococcus* (*Streptococcus agalactiae*) from a lower vaginal or anorectal specimen or from a normally sterile site (e.g., blood);

**OR**

Clinically compatible signs and symptoms with a clinical diagnosis of invasive Group B Streptococcal disease in a newborn up to 28 days after birth and laboratory confirmation of Group B *Streptococcus* (*Streptococcus agalactiae*) isolated from the placenta or amniotic fluid.

## 4.0 Laboratory Evidence

### 4.1 Laboratory Confirmation

Any of the following will constitute a confirmed case of Group B Streptococcal Disease of the newborn:

- Positive Group B *Streptococcus* (*Streptococcus agalactiae*) culture from a normally sterile site (e.g., CSF, blood, pleural or joint fluid) in infants
- Positive nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT) for Group B *Streptococcus* from a normally sterile site in infants

### 4.2 Approved/Validated Tests

- Standard culture for Group B *Streptococcus* with serogrouping
- NAAT for Group B *Streptococcus*

### 4.3 Indications and Limitations

Not applicable

## 5.0 Clinical Evidence

Clinically compatible signs and symptoms are characterized by the following:

- Early onset disease (<7 days), characterized by sepsis, pneumonia, and less frequently meningitis, osteomyelitis or septic arthritis  
**OR**
- Late onset disease (≥7 days to 1 month), characterized by sepsis and meningitis.

## 6.0 ICD 10 Code(s)

P36.0 Sepsis of newborn due to streptococcus, group B

## 7.0 Comments

Probable cases are included to ensure completeness of reporting in cases where an infant is treated early with antibiotics before all the appropriate specimens have been taken. It is expected that virtually all cases will be reported from hospitals.

## 8.0 Sources

Heymann DL, editor. Control of Communicable Diseases Manual. 20 ed. Washington, D.C: American Public Health Association; 2015.

Public Health Agency of Canada. Group B Streptococcal Disease of the Newborn. In: Case Definitions for Communicable Diseases under National Surveillance. Canada Communicable Disease Report. 2009;35S2.

## 9.0 Document History

**Table 1: History of Revisions**

Revision Date	Document Section	Description of Revisions
January 2014	General	New template.
January 2014	3.1 Confirmed Case	First sentence changed from (“Laboratory detection of Group B <i>Streptococcus (Streptococcus agalactiae)</i> from a normally sterile site (e.g., cerebrospinal fluid [CSF]), with clinically compatible signs and symptoms of invasive disease in a newborn” to (“Laboratory confirmation of Group B <i>Streptococcus (Streptococcus agalactiae)</i> from a normally sterile site (e.g., cerebrospinal fluid [CSF]), with clinically compatible signs and symptoms of invasive disease in a newborn up to 28 days after birth.”)

Revision Date	Document Section	Description of Revisions
January 2014	3.2 Probable Case	First sentence changed from (“Clinically compatible signs and symptoms with a diagnosis of invasive Group B streptococcal disease in a newborn whose mother has laboratory confirmation of Group B streptococci from a lower vaginal or anorectal specimen”) to (“Clinically compatible signs and symptoms with a diagnosis of invasive Group B streptococcal disease in a newborn up to 28 days after birth, whose mother has laboratory confirmation of Group B streptococcus from a lower vaginal or anorectal specimen”)
January 2014	5.0 Clinical Evidence	<p>First bullet point changed from (“Early onset disease (1-7 days), characterized by sepsis, pneumonia, and less frequently meningitis, osteomyelitis or septic arthritis”) to (“Early onset disease (&lt;7 days), characterized by sepsis, pneumonia, and less frequently meningitis, osteomyelitis or septic arthritis”)</p> <p>Second bullet point changed from (“Late onset disease (7 days to 1 month), characterized by sepsis and meningitis.”) to (“Late onset disease (≥7 days to 1 month), characterized by sepsis and meningitis.”)</p>
January 2014	8.0 Sources	Updated.
February 2019	General	<p>Minor revisions were made to support the regulation change to Diseases of Public Health Significance.</p> <p>Additional probable case definition: Clinically compatible signs and symptoms with a clinical diagnosis of invasive Group B streptococcal disease in a newborn up to 28 days after birth and laboratory confirmation of Group B <i>Streptococcus</i> (<i>Streptococcus agalactiae</i>) isolated from the placenta or amniotic fluid.</p>
February 2019	4.2 Approved/ Validated Tests	Removed: Group B <i>Streptococcus</i> antigen test.

