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

Disease: Ophthalmia neonatorum

Effective: December 2018
Ophthalmia neonatorum

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 *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* (*N. gonorrhoeae*) or *Chlamydia trachomatis* (*C. trachomatis*) in conjunctival specimens from an infant (most commonly occurs in infants less than or equal to 28 days in age).

3.2 Probable Case
- Laboratory confirmation of *N. gonorrhoeae* or *C. trachomatis* in maternal specimen
  AND/OR
- Clinically compatible signs and symptoms in an infant (most commonly occurs in infants less than or equal to 28 days in age)

4.0 Laboratory Evidence

4.1 Laboratory Confirmation
Any of the following will constitute a confirmed case of Ophthalmia neonatorum:
- Positive *N. gonorrhoeae* or *C. trachomatis* culture
- Positive for *N. gonorrhoeae* or *C. trachomatis* nucleic acid

4.2 Approved/Validated Tests
- Standard culture for *N. gonorrhoeae* or *C. trachomatis* by enzyme immunoassay (EIA) or direct fluorescent antibody (DFA)

4.3 Indications and Limitations
Not applicable
5.0 Clinical Evidence
Acute redness and swelling of conjunctiva in one or both eyes, with mucopurulent or purulent discharge in which gonococci are identifiable by microscopic and culture methods. Corneal ulcer, perforation and blindness may occur if specific treatment is not given promptly.

6.0 ICD 10 Code(s)
A54.3 Gonococcal infection of eye

7.0 Comments
- The most common infectious cause is C. trachomatis, which produces inclusion conjunctivitis that usually appears 5-14 days after birth.
- In the situation where C. trachomatis is isolated from both the lung and the eye of a newborn, the case should be reported as chlamydia pneumonitis.

8.0 Sources


9.0 Document History
Table 1: History of Revisions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revision Date</th>
<th>Document Section</th>
<th>Description of Revisions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December 2018</td>
<td>General</td>
<td>Minor revisions were made to support the regulation change to Diseases of Public Health Significance.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>