

Appendix B: Provincial Case Definitions for Reportable Diseases

Disease: Encephalitis, including: i) Primary, viral; ii) Post-infectious; iii) Vaccine-related; iv) Subacute sclerosing panencephalitis, and v) Unspecified

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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 infection with clinically compatible signs and symptoms of encephalitis:

- Isolation of organism from an appropriate clinical specimen (e.g., cerebrospinal fluid, stool)
OR
- Detection of nucleic acid from appropriate clinical specimens (e.g., cerebrospinal fluid, stool)
OR
- Detection of specific antigen
OR
- Serologic confirmation of infection with an organism known to cause encephalitis

3.2 Probable Case

Clinically compatible signs and symptoms of encephalitis in the absence of laboratory confirmation of a causative organism

4.0 Laboratory Evidence

Given the variability of etiological organisms, consult with laboratory about appropriate specimens and testing methodologies

5.0 Clinical Evidence

Clinically compatible signs and symptoms are characterized by fever, headache, and altered mental status ranging from confusion to coma with or without additional signs of brain dysfunction (e.g., paresis or paralysis, cranial nerve palsies, sensory deficits, abnormal reflexes, generalized convulsions, and abnormal movements).

6.0 ICD Code(s)

6.1 ICD 10 Code

G05.1 Primary, viral

6.2 ICD 10 Code

G04.9 Unspecified

7.0 Comments

Exclusionary Criteria for Meeting the Case Definition

- Encephalitis due to *Haemophilus influenzae b*, *Neisseria meningitidis*, *Streptococcus pneumoniae* (IPD), Tuberculosis, West Nile Virus, or *Listeria monocytogenes* should be reported under the corresponding diseases.
- Post-infectious encephalitis due to measles, rubella, mumps or varicella should be reported under the respective condition as a complication of the illness
- Post-vaccine encephalitis should be reported as an Adverse Event Following Immunization (AEFI)
- West Nile virus was reported under Encephalitis between January 2003 and July 2004. As of July 2004, West Nile virus encephalitis should be reported as West Nile virus.

8.0 References

- National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System. Case Definitions. [Internet]. Neuroinvasive and Non-Neuroinvasive Domestic Arboviral Diseases; 2004. Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); 2008. [cited 2009 Feb 12]. Available from http://www.cdc.gov/ncphi/diss/nndss/casedef/arboviral_current.htm.
- Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Public Health Division. iPHIS manual. Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario; 2005.

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