

Appendix B: Provincial Case Definitions for Reportable Diseases

Disease: Hepatitis C

Hepatitis C

1.0 Provincial Reporting

Confirmed cases of disease

2.0 Type of Surveillance

Case-by-case

3.0 Confirmed Case

3.1 Confirmed Case

Laboratory confirmation of infection with/without symptoms:

- Detection of Hepatitis C virus (HCV) antibodies, (if > 18 months of age)
- OR
- Detection of Hepatitis C virus ribonucleic acid (RNA)

4.0 Laboratory Evidence

4.1 Laboratory Confirmation

Any of the following will constitute a confirmed case of Hepatitis C:

- Positive for anti-HCV with laboratory confirmation
- Positive for HCV RNA

4.2 Approved/Validated Tests

- Anti-HCV line immunoblot assays including recombinant immunoblot assay (RIBA) and line immunoassay (LIA)

4.3 Indications and Limitations

- In immunocompromised cases HCV NAT is recommended, as antibodies may be negative in this population
- HCV antibody testing should not be performed in infants < 18 months of age because of detectable levels of maternal antibody; however, if antibody testing is performed and found to be reactive at 18 months of age, HCV RNA real-time reverse transcription, polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) or nucleic acid amplification test (NAT) should be performed to rule out maternal antibody and to confirm viremia.
- Cord blood should not be used because of maternal blood contamination
- Testing for RNA earlier than 4-6 weeks of age is not recommended

5.0 Clinical Evidence

A clinical consultation is necessary for diagnosis

6.0 ICD Code(s)

ICD 10 Code B18.2

7.0 Comments

N/A

8.0 References

- National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System. Case Definitions. [Internet]. Hepatitis C virus infection, acute; 2007. Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); 2008. [cited 2009 Feb 12]. Available from <http://www.cdc.gov/ncphi/diss/nndss/casedef/hepatitiscacutecurrent.htm>.
- Heymann D, editor. Control of communicable diseases manual. 18th ed. Washington: American Public Health Association; 2004.
- Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Public Health Division. iPHIS manual. Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario; 2005.
- Nationally Notifiable Diseases Case Definitions with Canadian Public Health Laboratory Network (CPHLN) and Epidemiologic Group Draft Edits. March 2007. Based on case definitions as written in the: Health Canada. Case definitions for diseases under national surveillance. Can Commun Dis Rep. 2000; 26 Suppl 3:i-iv 1-122. Available from <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/ccdr-rmtc/00pdf/cdr26s3e.pdf>.

Date of Last Revision: November 2008

