

Appendix B: Provincial Case Definitions for Reportable Diseases

Disease: Ophthalmia neonatorum

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* or *Chlamydia 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 *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* or *Chlamydia 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

- N/A

5.0 Clinical Evidence

Acute redness and swelling of conjunctiva in one or both eyes, with mucropurulent 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 Code(s)

ICD 10 Code A54.3

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 References

- Public Health Agency of Canada. Canadian guidelines on sexually transmitted infections. Ottawa: Public Health Agency of Canada; 2008. Available from http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/std-mts/sti_2006/pdf/Guidelines_Eng_complete_06-26-08.pdf.
- 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.

Date of Last Revision: November 2008

