

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

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

Public Health Agency of Canada. Canadian Guidelines on Sexually Transmitted Infections [Internet]. Ottawa, ON: Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada; 2018 [cited May 15, 2018]. Available from: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/infectious-diseases/sexual-health-sexually-transmitted-infections/canadian-guidelines/sexually-transmitted-infections.html>

9.0 Document History

Table 1: History of Revisions

Revision Date	Document Section	Description of Revisions
December 2018	General	Minor revisions were made to support the regulation change to Diseases of Public Health Significance.

