

Hepatitis B, Acute

Clinical case definition

An acute illness with:

- a) discrete onset of symptoms **and**
- b) jaundice or elevated serum aminotransferase levels.

Laboratory criteria for diagnosis:

IgM antibody to hepatitis B core antigen (HBcAb-IgM) positive (if done)

OR

Hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) positive

AND

IgM antibody to hepatitis A virus (HAV-IgM) negative (if done)

Case classification

CONFIRMED: a case that meets the clinical case definition and is laboratory confirmed.

Comment

None.

Hepatitis B, Perinatal

Clinical case definition

Perinatal HBV in the newborn may range from asymptomatic to fulminate hepatitis.

Laboratory criteria for diagnosis:

Hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) positive

Case classification

CONFIRMED: HBsAg positive serology in any infant aged >1-24 months who was born in the United States or in U.S. territories to a HBsAg-positive mother.

Comment

Infants born to HBsAg-positive mothers should receive hepatitis B immune globulin (HBIG) and the first dose of hepatitis B vaccine within 12 hours of birth, followed by the second and third doses of vaccine at 1 and 6 months of age, respectively. Postvaccination testing for HBsAg and HBsAb is recommended from 3 to 6 months following completion of the vaccine series. If HBIG and the initial dose of vaccine are delayed for >1 month after birth, testing for HBsAg may determine if the infant is already infected.

Hepatitis B, Chronic

Clinical description

Persons with chronic hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection may be asymptomatic. They may have no evidence of liver disease or may have a spectrum of disease ranging from chronic hepatitis to cirrhosis or liver cancer.

Laboratory criteria for diagnosis

IgM antibodies to hepatitis B core antigen (HBcAb-IgM) negative

AND

a positive result on one of the following tests:

Hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg),

Hepatitis B e antigen (HBeAg) or

Hepatitis B virus (HBV) DNA

OR

HBsAg positive or HBV DNA positive or HBeAg positive two times at least 6 months apart (Any combination of these tests performed 6 months apart is acceptable).

Case classification

CONFIRMED: a case that meets either laboratory criteria for diagnosis

PROBABLE: a case with a single HBsAg positive or HBV DNA positive or HBeAg positive lab result when no HBcAb-IgM results are available.

Comment

Multiple laboratory tests indicative of chronic HBV infection may be performed simultaneously on the same patient specimen as part of a "hepatitis panel". Testing performed in this manner may lead to seemingly discordant results, e.g. HBsAg negative AND HBV DNA-positive. For the purposes of this case definition, any positive result among the three laboratory tests mentioned above is acceptable, regardless of other testing results. Negative HBeAg results and HBV DNA levels below positive cutoff level do not confirm the absence of HBV infection.

CDRSS

Laboratory-confirmed or health care provider-reported cases of chronic HBV infection diagnosed prior to the current reporting year, and not reported previously in CDRSS, should be managed as follows in CDRSS:

- 1) Enter the patient's illness onset date as reported by provider. If the exact illness date is unknown, enter January 1st if the month and day are not known, followed by the year that the HBV diagnosis was made.
- 2) Select the "CONFIRMED" option under Case Status.
- 3) Select "CASE DIAGNOSED IN A PREVIOUS YEAR" from the "Reason for Update" drop-down menu that appears next to "Case Status" box.

Laboratory-confirmed or health care provider-reported cases of chronic HBV infection previously reported in CDRSS as "CONFIRMED" cases should be managed in CDRSS as follows:

- 1) Verify that the case has been investigated and closed. Duplicative HBsAg positive data does not need to be noted in CDRSS unless that case is a female of reproductive age.
- 2) Reopen the case of all females of reproductive age (15-45 years), with positive HBsAg serology and obtain pregnancy status indicated as "yes" or "no" in CDRSS. CDRSS will automatically open a closed case upon receipt of an electronic laboratory report (ELR) transmission noting a female or unknown gender between the ages of 15 – 45 years.

Laboratory profiles suggestive of past infection (positive HBc – IgG and negative HBsAg) or vaccine-induced immunity (positive HBsAb, negative HBsAg) should be classified as "NOT A CASE" in CDRSS.

Note:

Cases which are lost to follow-up after three attempts (e.g., phone calls to patients/providers on three separate days at different times of the day or letters faxed or mailed to healthcare provider three separate times) to obtain information may be classified as "NOT A CASE" in the Communicable Disease Reporting and Surveillance System (CDRSS).