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Hepatitis B, Perinatal Infection  
2017 Case Definition  
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2017 Case Definition  
NOTE:  
A surveillance case definition is a set of uniform criteria used to define a disease for public health surveillance. Surveillance case definitions enable public health officials to classify and count cases consistently across reporting jurisdictions. Surveillance case definitions are not intended to be used by healthcare providers for making a clinical diagnosis or determining how to meet an individual patient’s health needs.  
CSTE Position Statement(s)  
16-ID-06  
Background  
Great progress has been made in identifying hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg)-positive pregnant women and immunizing their infants with Hepatitis B (HepB) vaccine and Hepatitis B immune globulin (HBIG) to prevent vertical infection, but there are still infants who acquire hepatitis B virus (HBV)  
infection. This is because either their mothers are not recognized as infected and the infant does not receive HBIG and the full Hep B vaccine series or  
the intervention does not prevent infection. Without post-exposure prophylaxis with HBIG and HepB vaccine, approximately 45% of infants born to  
HBV-infected mothers will become infected and up to 90% of those infected will develop chronic, life-long infection. Among infants who do develop  
infection, 25% will die prematurely of liver cirrhosis or cancer. It is estimated that 1,000 newborns are infected annually.  
1  
Although, treatment of HBV  
infection is now possible and can attenuate the impact of infection, hepatitis B cannot yet be cured.  
2  
It is important to assure adequate immunity in infants of HBV-infected mothers and to determine if infection of the infant occurred with or without  
post-exposure prophylaxis. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommend universal testing of pregnant women for HBsAg, post-exposure prophylaxis within 12 hours of birth with HBIG and the first dose of HepB vaccine for infants born to HBV-infected mothers, universal birth dose administration to all infants regardless of the mother’s HBsAg status, completion of a valid three dose vaccine series in all infants, and post-vaccination serologic testing (PVST) for HBsAg and anti-HBs at 9-12 months for infants born to HBV-infected mothers or infants born in regions of high and intermediate HBV endemicity.  
3  
The CDC Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program helps promote these recommendations and provides case management of HBV-infected mothers and their infants. Evaluation of the program depends on the follow-up of exposed infants.  
Clinical Criteria  
Perinatal HBV infection in a child ≤ 24 months of age may range from asymptomatic to fulminant hepatitis.  
Laboratory Criteria For Diagnosis  
Laboratory evidence of HBV infection in an infant consists of one or more of the following:  
positive hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) test (only if at least 4 weeks after last dose of Hep B vaccine)  
positive hepatitis B e antigen (HBeAg) test  
detectable HBV DNA  
Epidemiologic Linkage  
Born to a HBV-infected mother.  
Case Classification  
Probable  
Child born in the US and positive for HBsAg at ≥ 1 month of age and ≤ 24 months of age  
OR  
positive for HBeAg or HBV DNA ≥9 months of age and ≤ 24 months of  
age, but whose mother’s hepatitis B status is unknown (i.e. epidemiologic linkage not present).  
Confirmed  
Child born in the US to a HBV-infected mother and positive for HBsAg at ≥ 1 month of age and ≤ 24 months of age  
OR  
positive for HBeAg or HBV DNA ≥9 months of age and ≤ 24 months of age.  
Comments  
Infants born to HBV-infected mothers should receive HBIG and the first dose of HepB vaccine within 12 hours of birth, followed by the second and third  
doses of HepB vaccine at 1 and 6 months of age, respectively. PVST for HBsAg and anti-HBsAg is recommended 1 to 2 months following completion of the  
vaccine series, but not earlier than 9 months of age.  
If the mother is known to  
not  
be infected with HBV, refer to the case definition for acute Hepatitis B.  
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