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Hepatitis C, Acute  
2004 Case Definition  
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2004 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.  
Clinical Description  
An acute illness with a) discrete onset of symptoms (such as nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain and diarrhea) and b) jaundice or abnormal serum aminotransferase (ALT) levels  
Laboratory Criteria For Diagnosis  
Serum ALT levels greater than 7 times the upper limit of normal, and Immunoglobulin M antibody to hepatitis A virus (IgM anti-HAV) negative (if done),  
AND  
IgM antibody to hepatitis B core antigen (IgM anti-HBc) negative, or if not done, hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) negative,  
AND  
Antibody to hepatitis C virus (anti-HCV) screening-test-positive (repeat reactive) verified by an additional more specific assay (e.g., recombinant immunoblot assay [RIBA] for anti-HCV or nucleic acid testing for hepatitis C virus RNA)  
OR  
Anti-HCV screening-test-positive with a signal to cut-off ratio predictive of a true positive as determined for the particular assay (e.g., ≥3.8 for the enzyme immunoassays)  
Case Classification  
Confirmed  
A case that meets the clinical case definition and is laboratory confirmed  
Related Case Definition(s)  
Hepatitis C, Acute | 2020 Case Definition  
Hepatitis C, Acute | 2016 Case Definition  
Hepatitis C, Acute | 2012 Case Definition  
Hepatitis C, Acute | 2011 Case Definition  
Hepatitis C, Acute | 2007 Case Definition  
Hepatitis C, Acute | 2000 Case Definition  
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NNDSS receives and shares case data from state, local, and territorial health departments to help public health monitor, control, and prevent serious diseases.  
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