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Hepatitis C, Acute 2016 Case Definition | CDC  
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Hepatitis C, Acute  
2016 Case Definition  
Hepatitis C, Acute  
2016 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)  
15-ID-03  
Clinical Criteria  
An illness with discrete onset of any sign or symptom consistent with acute viral hepatitis (e.g., fever, headache, malaise, anorexia, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and abdominal pain),  
AND  
(a) jaundice,  
OR  
(b) a peak elevated serum alanine aminotransferase (ALT) level >200 IU/L during the period of acute illness.  
Laboratory Criteria For Diagnosis  
A positive test for antibodies to hepatitis C virus (anti-HCV)  
Hepatitis C virus detection test:  
Nucleic acid test (NAT) for HCV RNA positive (including qualitative, quantitative or genotype testing)  
A positive test indicating presence of hepatitis C viral antigen(s) (HCV antigen)\*  
\* When and if a test for HCV antigen(s) is approved by FDA and available.  
Criteria to Distinguish a New Case from an Existing Case  
A new acute case is an incident acute hepatitis C case that meets the case criteria for acute hepatitis C and has not previously been reported. A new probable acute case may be re-classified as confirmed acute case if a positive NAT for HCV RNA or a positive HCV antigen(s) test is reported within the same year. A confirmed acute case may be classified as a confirmed chronic case if a positive NAT for HCV RNA or a positive HCV antigen is reported one year or longer after acute case onset. A confirmed acute case may not be reported as a probable chronic case (i.e., HCV antibody positive, but with an unknown HCV RNA NAT or antigen status).  
States and territories may choose to track resolved hepatitis C cases in which spontaneous clearance of infection or sustained viral response to treatment are suspected to have occurred before national notification or are known to have occurred after national notification as a confirmed or probable case to CDC.  
Case Classification  
Probable  
A case that meets clinical criteria and has a positive anti-HCV antibody test, but has no reports of a positive HCV NAT or positive HCV antigen tests,  
AND  
Does not have test conversion within 12 months or has no report of test conversion.  
Confirmed  
A case that meets clinical criteria and has a positive hepatitis C virus detection test (HCV NAT or HCV antigen),  
OR  
A documented negative HCV antibody, HCV antigen or NAT laboratory test result followed within 12 months by a positive result of any of these tests (test conversion).  
Related Case Definition(s)  
Hepatitis C, Acute | 2020 Case Definition  
Hepatitis C, Acute | 2012 Case Definition  
Hepatitis C, Acute | 2011 Case Definition  
Hepatitis C, Acute | 2007 Case Definition  
Hepatitis C, Acute | 2004 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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