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Hepatitis, Viral, Acute 1990 Case Definition | CDC  
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National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS)  
Explore Topics  
Search  
Search  
Clear Input  
For Everyone  
About About National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System  
What is Case Surveillance?  
Case Surveillance Modernization  
Infectious Disease Tables  
Non-Infectious Disease Data  
Technical Resource Center  
Case Surveillance in Action  
Contact Us  
View all  
Related Topics:  
NDC Application  
View All  
search  
close search  
search  
National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS)  
Menu  
Close  
search  
For Everyone  
About About National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System  
What is Case Surveillance?  
Case Surveillance Modernization  
Infectious Disease Tables  
Non-Infectious Disease Data  
Technical Resource Center  
Case Surveillance in Action  
Contact Us  
View All  
Related Topics  
NDC Application  
View All  
National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS)  
About About National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System  
What is Case Surveillance?  
Case Surveillance Modernization  
Infectious Disease Tables  
Non-Infectious Disease Data  
Technical Resource Center  
Case Surveillance in Action  
Contact Us  
View All  
April 16, 2021  
Case Definitions  
Message Mapping Guides  
Supporting Documents for Implementation  
Event Codes & Other Surveillance Resources  
Hepatitis, Viral, Acute  
1990 Case Definition  
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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 illness with a) discrete onset of symptoms and b) jaundice or elevated serum aminotransferase (ALT) levels  
Laboratory Criteria For Diagnosis  
Hepatitis A  
: Immunoglobulin M antibody to hepatitis A virus (IgM anti-HAV) positive  
Hepatitis B  
: IgM antibody to hepatitis B core antigen (IgM anti-HBc) positive (if done) or hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) positive, and IgM to hepatitis A virus (IgM anti-HAV) negative (if done)  
Non-A, Non-B Hepatitis  
:  
IgM anti-HAV-negative,  
AND  
IgM anti-HBc-negative (if done) or HBsAg-negative,  
AND  
Serum ALT levels greater than 2½ times the upper limit of normal  
Delta Hepatitis  
: HBsAg- or IgM anti-HBc-positive and antibody to hepatitis D virus (anti-HDV) positive  
Case Classification  
Confirmed  
A case that meets the clinical case definition and is laboratory confirmed  
Comments  
A serologic test for immunoglobulin G (IgG) antibody to the recently described hepatitis C virus is available, and many cases of non-A, non-B hepatitis may be demonstrated to be due to infection with the hepatitis C virus. With this assay, however, a prolonged interval between onset of disease and detection of antibody may occur. Until a more specific test for acute hepatitis C becomes available, these cases should be reported as non-A, non-B hepatitis. Chronic carriage or chronic hepatitis should not be reported.  
Related Case Definition(s)  
Hepatitis, Viral, Acute | 1996 Case Definition  
Hepatitis, Viral, Acute | 1995 Case Definition  
Back to Top  
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Supporting Documents for Implementation  
Event Codes & Other Surveillance Resources  
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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.  
View All  
About About National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System  
What is Case Surveillance?  
Case Surveillance Modernization  
Infectious Disease Tables  
Non-Infectious Disease Data  
Technical Resource Center  
Case Surveillance in Action  
Contact Us  
View All  
Sign up for Email Updates  
Contact CDC  
Organization  
Policies  
Web Policies  
Languages  
Languages  
Español  
Language Assistance  
Archive  
CDC Archive  
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Policies  
Web Policies  
Languages  
Languages  
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