Perinatal Hepatitis B

Case Definition (*)

Clinical description
Perinatal HBV infection in the newborn can range from asymptomatic to fulminant hepatitis.

Laboratory criteria
Hepatitis B surface antigen-positive (HBsAg-positive)

Case classification
HBsAg positivity in any infant < 24 months of age who was born in the United States or in U.S. territories to an 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. Post-vaccination testing for HBsAg and hepatitis B surface antibody (anti-HBs) 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.

*The Conference of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) adopted this case definition in March 1995.

Adapted from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Guidelines for Viral Hepatitis Surveillance and Case Management. Atlanta, GA 2005