**HEPATITIS C, ACUTE (2012)**

**Clinical case definition**
An acute illness with:
1) a discrete onset of any sign or symptom* consistent with acute viral hepatitis (e.g., fever, headache, malaise, diarrhea, anorexia, abdominal discomfort, nausea, vomiting), AND
2) either a) jaundice, or b) serum alanine aminotransferase (ALT) levels >400 IU/L.

*A documented negative HCV antibody laboratory test result followed within 6 months by a positive test (as described in the laboratory criteria for diagnosis) result does not require an acute clinical presentation to meet the surveillance case definition.

**Laboratory criteria for diagnosis**
**One or more of the following criteria:**
1) Antibodies to hepatitis C virus (anti-HCV) screening-test-positive with a signal to cut-off ratio predictive of a true positive as determined for the particular assay as defined by CDC. (URL for the signal to cut-off ratios: http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/hepatitis/c/sc_ratios.htm), OR
2) Hepatitis C Virus Recombinant Immunoblot Assay (HCV RIBA) positive, OR
3) Nucleic acid test (NAT) for HCV RNA positive (including qualitative, quantitative or genotype testing).

AND, if done, meets the following two criteria:
1) IgM antibody to hepatitis A virus (If done) (IgM anti-HAV) negative, AND
2) IgM antibody to hepatitis B core antigen (If done) (IgM anti-HBc) negative

**Case classification**
Confirmed: a case that meets the clinical case definition, is laboratory confirmed, and is not known to have chronic hepatitis C.
Clinical description
Most hepatitis C virus (HCV)-infected persons are asymptomatic; however, many have chronic liver disease, which can range from mild to severe.

Laboratory criteria for diagnosis
One or more of the following three criteria (except in persons less than 18 months of age, for whom only criteria three would meet the case classification criteria):

1) Antibodies to hepatitis C virus (anti-HCV) screening-test-positive with a signal to cut-off ratio predictive of a true positive as determined for the particular as determined and posted by CDC. (URL for the signal to cut-off ratios: http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/hepatitis/c/sc_ratios.htm), OR
2) Hepatitis C Virus Recombinant Immunoblot Assay (HCV RIBA) positive, OR
3) Nucleic acid test (NAT) for HCV RNA positive (including qualitative, quantitative or genotype testing).

Case classification
Probable: a case that is anti-HCV positive (repeat reactive) by EIA and has alanine aminotranferase (ALT or SGPT) values above the upper limit of normal, but the anti-HCV EIA result has not been verified by an additional more specific assay or the signal to cut-off ratio is unknown.

Confirmed: a case that is laboratory confirmed and does not meet the case definition for acute hepatitis C.