Hepatitis C, Past or Present

2012 Case Definition

CSTE Position Statement Number: 11-ID-06

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 3 would meet the case classification criteria):

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/hepatitis/HCV/LabTesting.htm), OR

Hepatitis C virus recombinant immunoblot assay (HCV RIBA) positive, OR

Nucleic acid test (NAT) for HCV RNA positive (including qualitative, quantitative or genotype testing).

Case Classification

Probable

A case that does not meet the case definition for acute hepatitis C, is anti-HCV positive (repeat reactive) by EIA, and has alanine aminotransferase (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.