

Hepatitis B, Acute

2024 Case Definition

CSTE Position Statement Number: 23-ID-05

Clinical Description

In the absence of a more likely, alternative diagnosis*, acute onset or new detection of at least one of the following:

Jaundice,

Total bilirubin > 3.0mg/dL, or

Elevated serum alanine aminotransferase (ALT) levels > 200 IU/L.

* Alternative diagnoses may include evidence of acute liver disease due to other causes or advanced liver disease due to hepatitis B reactivation (see section VIB), pre-existing chronic HBV infection, other causes including alcohol exposure, other viral hepatitis, hemochromatosis, or conditions known to produce false positives of hepatitis B surface antigen, etc.

Laboratory Criteria for Diagnosis

Tier 1

Detection of HBsAg **AND** Detection of IgM anti-HBc **OR**

Detection of HBeAg **AND** Detection of IgM anti-HBc **OR**

Detection of HBV DNA **AND** Detection of IgM anti-HBc **OR**

Detection of HBsAg, HBeAg **OR**

HBV DNA within 12 months (365 days) of a negative HBsAg test result. (i.e., HBsAg seroconversion)

Tier 2

Detection of HBV surface antigen (HBsAg) **AND**

IgM antibody to HBV core antigen (IgM anti-HBc) test not done or result not available **OR**

Detection of HBV DNA **AND** IgM anti-HBc test not done or result not available

Presumptive Laboratory Evidence:

Detection of IgM anti-HBc, **AND** Negative or not done for HBsAg, HBV DNA, or HBeAg

Case Classification***

Confirmed

Meets Tier 1 confirmatory laboratory evidence of acute HBV infection **OR**
Meets clinical criteria **AND** Tier 2 confirmatory laboratory evidence of acute HBV infection

Probable

Meets clinical criteria **AND** presumptive laboratory evidence of acute HBV infection

*** Individuals born in the US, under or equal to the age of 24 months, and born to a mother with documented evidence of hepatitis B infection should be reporting using the Perinatal Hepatitis B Position Statement (16-ID-06), unless there is evidence that exposure occurred via a non-perinatal mechanism (e.g., healthcare acquired).

Criteria to Distinguish a New Case of Acute or Chronic Hepatitis B from Reports or Notifications which Should Not be Enumerated as a New Case for Surveillance

A case of HBV infection classified under the Perinatal HBV position statement (16-ID-06) can additionally be considered a confirmed case of chronic HBV infection if a positive HBV viral detection test (HBsAg, HBeAg, or HBV DNA) is obtained after the case is greater than 24 months of age.

A confirmed acute case of HBV infection may also be considered a new confirmed chronic case of HBV infection if a positive HBV viral detection test is reported 6 months or longer after acute case onset or, if asymptomatic, after the initial positive test result.

An acute case of HBV infection should not have been previously reported as a case of either acute or chronic HBV infection.

A chronic case of HBV infection should not have been previously reported as a case of chronic HBV infection.