

Hepatitis C Case Classification

All hepatitis C virus (HCV) cases in each classification category, acute and chronic, should be >36 months of age, unless known to have been exposed non-perinatally.

Acute Hepatitis C

Chronic Hepatitis C

Criteria to Distinguish a New Case from an Existing Case:

A new acute case is an incident case that has not previously been reported as meeting case criteria for chronic hepatitis C or for whom there is laboratory evidence of re-infection.

Clinical Criteria:

Most HCV infected persons are asymptomatic; therefore, symptoms are **no longer required** to meet the acute case definition. In the absence of a more likely, alternative diagnosis, acute onset, or new detection of at least one of the following must be present: a) Jaundice, OR b) peak elevated serum ALT level >200 IU/L, OR c) Total Bilirubin \geq 3.0mg/dL.

Case Classification:

Confirmed

- Clinical Criteria Required AND:
 - Detection HCV RNA (qualitative, quantitative, or genotype testing), **OR**,
 - A documented negative anti-HCV followed within 12 months by a positive anti-HCV test (test conversion), **OR**,
 - A documented negative anti-HCV OR negative HCV RNA (in someone without a prior diagnosis of HCV infection) followed within 12 months by a positive HCV RNA test (HCV RNA test conversion).

Probable

- Clinical Criteria Required AND:
 - Detection of anti-HCV, **AND**,
 - Does not have a hepatitis C virus detection test reported, **AND**,
 - Has no documentation of anti-HCV or HCV RNA test conversion within 12 months.

Criteria to Distinguish a New Case from an Existing Case:

A new chronic case is a case that meets the case criteria for chronic hepatitis C. A confirmed acute case may not be reported as a probable chronic case (i.e., HCV antibody positive, but with an unknown HCV RNA NAT or antigen status).

Clinical Criteria:

Most HCV infected persons are asymptomatic; however, many have chronic liver disease, which can range from mild to severe.

Case Classification:

Confirmed

- Detection of HCV RNA (qualitative, quantitative, or genotype testing), **AND**,
- Has no documentation of anti-HCV or HCV RNA test conversion within 12 months.

Probable

- Detection of anti-HCV, **AND**,
- Has no documentation of anti-HCV or RNA test conversion within 12 months, **AND**,
- Does not have an HCV RNA detection test reported.

Evidence for reinfection:

- At least 2 sequential documented negative HCV detection tests at least 12 weeks apart in someone with a prior diagnosis of hepatitis C followed by a positive HCV detection test.
 - Create a new HCV chronic case record.
 - If treatment of HCV occurred, add treatment information to the previous HCV chronic case record.

Hepatitis C – Acute Case Classification

Clinical Criteria (symptoms not required)

In the absence of a more likely, alternative diagnosis, acute onset or new detection must be >36 months of age, unless known to have been exposed non-perinatally, AND at least one of the following:

Jaundice **OR**

Total bilirubin > 3.0mg/dL **OR**

Elevated serum ALT levels > 200 IU/L

Acute Confirmed

Clinical Criteria required **AND**

Detection of Nucleic acid test (NAT) of HCV RNA,

OR

A documented negative anti-HCV followed within 12 months by a positive anti-HCV (test conversion),

OR

A documented negative anti-HCV OR negative HCV RNA followed within 12 months by a positive HCV RNA (test conversion).

Acute Probable

Clinical Criteria required **AND**

Detection of anti-HCV,

AND

Does not have a hepatitis C virus detection test reported,

AND

Has no documentation of anti-HCV or HCV RNA test conversion within 12 months.

Hepatitis C – Chronic Case Classification

Chronic Confirmed

Detection of HCV RNA, **AND**

Has no documentation of anti-HCV or HCV RNA test conversion within 12 months.

Chronic Probable

Detection of anti-HCV, **AND**

Has no documentation of anti-HCV or RNA test conversion within 12 months, **AND**

Does not have an HCV RNA detection test reported.

Test Name Abbreviations

ALT	Alanine aminotransferase
Total Bilirubin	Combination of direct and indirect bilirubin
Anti-HCV	Antibody to hepatitis C virus
HCV RNA	Hepatitis C virus ribonucleic acid