

Hepatitis C, Perinatal

Merlin reporting code = 07058
Case report form (CRF): [Viral Hepatitis CRF](#)
MERLIN EXTENDED DATA REQUIRED

Clinical description

Perinatal hepatitis C in newborns can range from asymptomatic to fulminant hepatitis.

Demographic criteria for case classification

An infant aged 1–24 months who was born in the U.S. or in a U.S. territory to a hepatitis C virus (HCV)-positive mother.

Laboratory criteria for case classification

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

Case classification

Confirmed:

An infant meeting the demographic criteria with laboratory evidence.

Comments

There is no safe and effective intervention known to prevent vertical transmission of HCV from mother to fetus or baby during pregnancy or childbirth. Approximately 75% of children who are vertically infected with HCV will develop chronic hepatitis C and should be referred for further evaluation and follow-up. HCV vertical transmission is higher in those who are born to HIV-infected mothers.

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