

Merlin disease code: 00720 Cyclosporiasis



Specimens and permanent slides (if available) for all cases must be sent to Bureau of Public Health Laboratories

[Paper case report form](#)

[National Hypothesis Generating Questionnaire \(NHGQ\)](#)

Merlin extended data required

NHGQ required for cases with onsets from May to August

Background

Cyclosporiasis is an illness of variable severity caused by the protozoan *Cyclospora cayetanensis* and commonly characterized by watery diarrhea (most common), anorexia (loss of appetite), weight loss, abdominal bloating and cramping, nausea, myalgia or other body aches, and fatigue. Vomiting and low-grade fever also may be noted. Relapses and asymptomatic infections can occur.

Clinical criteria for case classification

One or more of the following: diarrhea, anorexia, weight loss, abdominal bloating, abdominal cramps, nausea, myalgia, body aches, fatigue, vomiting, or fever.

Laboratory criteria for case classification

Either of the following:

- Demonstration of *Cyclospora* oocysts (by morphologic criteria or by demonstration of sporulation) in a clinical specimen
- **Or** detection of *Cyclospora* DNA by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) in a clinical specimen.

Epidemiological criteria for case classification

A person who is epidemiologically linked to a confirmed cyclosporiasis case.

Case classification

Confirmed:

A clinically compatible illness in a person with laboratory criteria.

Probable:

A clinically compatible illness in a person with epidemiological criteria.

Criteria to distinguish a new case from previous reports

Not applicable.

Comments

Cyclospora is almost exclusively identified in clinical specimens from stool, duodenal/jejunal aspirates, or small-bowel biopsy. Laboratory results identifying *Cyclospora* from other clinical specimen types should be discussed further with the case reviewer.

Cyclosporiasis

(Continued)

All *Cyclospora*-positive stool specimens must be sent to the Bureau of Public Health Laboratories (BPHL) in total-fix transport media. Formalin- or PVA-based transport media is not acceptable as it does not allow for confirmation and additional testing of the specimen at BPHL. Permanent slides, if available, must also be sent to BPHL in addition to the specimen.