

Background

Perinatal hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection in a child ≤ 24 months of age may range from asymptomatic to fulminant hepatitis.

Clinical criteria for case classification

Not applicable.

Laboratory criteria for case classification

One or more of the following:

- Positive HBV surface antigen (HBsAg) result in a child ≥ 1 to ≤ 24 months of age > 4 weeks after last dose of HBV vaccine,
- **Or** positive HBV e antigen (HBeAg) result in a child ≥ 9 to ≤ 24 months of age,
- **Or** positive nucleic acid test (NAT) for HBV DNA (including quantitative, qualitative, and genotype testing) in a child ≥ 9 to ≤ 24 months of age.

Epidemiological criteria for case classification

Confirmatory:

A child born in the U.S. or in a U.S. territory to an HBV-positive mother.

Presumptive:

A child born in the U.S. or in a U.S. territory whose mother's HBV status is unknown, due to adoption or similar situations.

Case classification

Confirmed:

A child with laboratory criteria and confirmatory epidemiologic criteria.

Probable:

A child with laboratory criteria and presumptive epidemiologic criteria.

Criteria to distinguish a new case from previous reports

Not applicable.

Comments

Infants born to HBV-infected mothers should receive hepatitis B immune globulin (HBIG) and the first dose of hepatitis B vaccine within 12 hours of birth, followed by the second and third doses of vaccine at 1 and 6 months of age, respectively. Post vaccination testing for HBsAg and antibody to hepatitis B surface antigen (anti-HBsAg) is recommended from 1 to 2 months following completion of the vaccine series, but not earlier than 9 months of age. If HBIG and the initial dose of vaccine are delayed for > 1 month after birth, testing for

HBsAg may determine if the infant is already infected. If the mother is known to not be infected with HBV, refer to the case definition for acute Hepatitis B.

Children ≤ 24 months old should only be reported as perinatal hepatitis B (Merlin disease code: 07744), not acute hepatitis B (Merlin disease code: 07032) or chronic hepatitis B (Merlin disease code: 07030) **unless** the mother was known not to be infected with HBV. Test results prior to 1 month of age should not be used for classification.

If the mother of a child reported under this code was a resident of Florida during the pregnancy, the mother should be reported hepatitis B in pregnant women (Merlin disease code: 07039) and under disease codes for hepatitis B, acute (Merlin disease code: 07030) or hepatitis B, chronic (Merlin disease code: 07032) as appropriate.