

Merlin disease code: 07052 Hepatitis D

[Paper case report form](#)  
Merlin extended data required

## Background

Hepatitis D is an acute viral illness characterized by discrete onset of symptoms and either jaundice or elevated liver enzymes. Symptoms most commonly include fatigue, abdominal pain, loss of appetite/anorexia, nausea, vomiting, or dark urine (tea colored). Illness is always associated with a coexistent hepatitis B infection. Hepatitis D virus (HDV) infection may occur as acute co-infection with hepatitis B virus (HBV), or as super-infection in persons with chronic HBV infection.

## Clinical criteria for case classification

### Confirmatory:

Both of the following:

- Discrete onset of symptoms
- **And** either of the following:
  - Jaundice
  - **Or** elevated liver enzymes.

### Presumptive:

Discrete onset of symptoms.

## Laboratory criteria for case classification

Both of the following:

- Either of the following as evidence of HBV infection:
  - Positive IgM antibody to HBV core antigen (IgM anti-HBc)
  - **Or** positive HBV surface antigen (HBsAg)
- **And** one or more of the following:
  - Positive IgM antibody to HDV (IgM anti-HDV),
  - **Or** positive HDV RNA by polymerase chain reaction (PCR),
  - **Or** positive total antibody (IgM and IgG) to HDV (anti-HDV).

## Epidemiological criteria for case classification

Not applicable.

## Case classification

### Confirmed:

A person with confirmatory clinical criteria and laboratory criteria.

### Probable:

A person with presumptive clinical criteria and laboratory criteria.

## Criteria to distinguish a new case from previous reports

Not applicable.

## Comments

Report all available liver enzyme results for every case under liver function tests (Merlin disease code: 00000).

See graphic for additional information related to the serological course of disease.

