Hepatitis C (unspecified)

Australian national notifiable diseases case definition

This document contains the surveillance case definition for hepatitis C (unspecified), which is nationally notifiable within Australia. State and territory health departments use this definition to decide whether to notify the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care of a case.

| Version | Status | Last reviewed | Implementation date |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2.0 | Inclusion of additional lines of laboratory evidence. Addition of footnotes regarding inclusion of positive point of care test results as evidence and sustained virological response. | 2022 | 1 January 2023 |
| 1.0 | Initial CDNA case definition | 2004 | 2004 |

Hepatitis C (unspecified) may be diagnosed in individuals aged 24 months or older at the time of specimen collection. A diagnosis of hepatitis C (unspecified) excludes a diagnosis of newly acquired hepatitis C and hepatitis C in individuals aged less than 24 months at the time of specimen collection.

## Reporting

Only **confirmed cases** should be notified.

## Confirmed case

A confirmed case requires **laboratory definitive evidence** AND that the case does not meet the criteria for a newly acquired case AND is aged 24 months or older.

## Laboratory definitive evidence

1. Detection of anti-hepatitis C antibody in a person with no prior evidence of hepatitis C virus infection

**OR**

1. Detection of hepatitis C virus by nucleic acid testing[[1]](#footnote-2) in a person with no prior evidence of hepatitis C virus infection

**OR**

1. Detection of hepatitis C virus by nucleic acid testing1 in a person who has had two consecutive negative hepatitis C nucleic acid test results recorded[[2]](#footnote-3) both of which were more than 24 months ago

**OR**

1. Detection of hepatitis C virus by nucleic acid testing of a different genotype to that previously documented more than 24 months ago
1. The use of point-of-care tests in the context of this case definition are for the purposes of surveillance. These point-of-care tests for detecting hepatitis C RNA must be listed on the [*Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods*](https://www.tga.gov.au/products/australian-register-therapeutic-goods-artg) and administered by appropriately trained persons in-line with National Pathology Accreditation Advisory Council’s (NPAAC) [*Requirements for Point-of-Care Testing*](https://www1.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/Requirements-for-Point-of-Care-Testing-%28Second-Edition-2021%29). Because point of care tests are sometimes used outside of a quality management governance environment or an accredited pathology laboratory (as described by NPAAC), the PHLN laboratory case definition does not apply to tests performed in these settings. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Indicates spontaneous clearance of a previous infection or post-treatment sustained virological response (SVR). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)