



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

2. Detection of hepatitis C virus by nucleic acid testing¹ in a person with no prior evidence of hepatitis C virus infection

OR

3. Detection of hepatitis C virus by nucleic acid testing¹ in a person who has had two consecutive negative hepatitis C nucleic acid test results recorded² both of which were more than 24 months ago

OR

4. 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](#) and administered by appropriately trained persons in-line with National Pathology Accreditation Advisory Council's (NPAAC) [Requirements for Point-of-Care Testing](#). 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.

² Indicates spontaneous clearance of a previous infection or post-treatment sustained virological response (SVR).