



# Hepatitis B (newly acquired)

## Australian national notifiable diseases case definition

This document contains the surveillance case definition for hepatitis B (newly acquired), 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
1.1	<p><b>Laboratory Definitive Evidence</b></p> <p>For clarity, remove “in the absence of prior evidence of hepatitis B infection” and insert “except where there is prior evidence of hepatitis B infection”.</p> <p><b>Note</b></p> <p>To caution about the influence of recent vaccination, add note:            “Transient HBsAg positivity can occur in patients following HBV vaccination. This occurs more commonly in dialysis patients and is unlikely to persist beyond 14 days post-vaccination”</p>	CDWG February 2015	1 July 2015
1.0	Initial CDNA case definition.	2004	2004

## Reporting

Only **confirmed cases** should be notified.

## Confirmed case

A confirmed case requires **laboratory definitive evidence** only.

## Laboratory definitive evidence

Detection of hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) in a patient shown to be negative within the last 24 months

OR

Detection of HBsAg and IgM to hepatitis B core antigen, except where there is prior evidence of hepatitis B infection

OR

Detection of hepatitis B virus by nucleic acid testing, and IgM to hepatitis B core antigen, except where there is prior evidence of hepatitis B infection

*Note:*

Transient HBsAg positivity can occur in patients following HBV vaccination. This occurs more commonly in dialysis patients and is unlikely to persist beyond 14 days post-vaccination.