



Table 4-2. US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) case definitions for acute and chronic hepatitis C, 2020

Criteria Type	Criteria
Age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> >36 months of age, OR ≤36 months of age and the mode of exposure was not perinatal
Clinical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jaundice, OR Peak elevated total bilirubin levels ≥3.0 mg/dL, OR Peak elevated serum alanine aminotransferase (ALT) >200 IU/L, AND The absence of a more likely diagnosis (which may include evidence of acute liver disease due to other causes or advanced liver disease due to pre-existing chronic hepatitis C or other causes, such as alcohol exposure, other viral hepatitis, hemochromatosis, etc.)
Confirmatory Laboratory	<p>HCV detection test</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Positive nucleic acid test (NAT) for HCV RNA (including qualitative, quantitative, or genotype testing), OR Positive test indicating presence of HCV antigen*
Presumptive Laboratory	Positive HCV antibody (anti-HCV) test†
Anti-HCV Test Conversion	Documented negative anti-HCV test followed within 12 months by a positive anti-HCV test
HCV Detection Test Conversion Criteria‡	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Documented negative anti-HCV test followed within 12 months by a positive HCV detection test OR Documented negative HCV detection test in someone without a prior diagnosis of hepatitis C followed within 12 months by a positive HCV detection test OR At least 2 sequential documented negative HCV detection tests at least 12 weeks apart in someone with a prior diagnosis of hepatitis C followed by a positive HCV detection test§
Case Status	Classification
Confirmed Acute‡	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> >36 months of age OR ≤36 months of age and the mode of exposure was not perinatal, AND Meets the clinical criteria and has confirmatory laboratory evidence OR has documentation of an anti-HCV test conversion OR has documentation of an HCV detection test conversion
Probable Acute‡	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> >36 months of age OR ≤36 months of age and the mode of exposure was not perinatal, AND Meets the clinical criteria, AND Has presumptive laboratory evidence, AND Has no or unknown HCV detection test result, AND Has no documentation of an anti-HCV or HCV detection test conversion, AND Has not been previously reported as a confirmed acute or chronic HCV case
Confirmed Chronic‡	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> >36 months of age OR ≤36 months of age and the mode of exposure was not perinatal, AND Does not meet or is not known to meet the clinical criteria, AND Has confirmatory laboratory evidence, AND Has no documentation of an anti-HCV or HCV detection test conversion
Probable Chronic‡	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> >36 months of age OR ≤36 months of age and the mode of exposure was not perinatal, AND Does not meet or is not known to meet the clinical criteria AND Has presumptive laboratory evidence, AND Has no documentation of an anti-HCV or HCV detection test conversion, AND Has no or unknown HCV detection test result, AND Has not been previously reported as a confirmed acute or chronic hepatitis C case

*At present, no HCV antigen tests are approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). These tests will be acceptable laboratory criteria, equivalent to HCV RNA testing, when an FDA-approved test becomes available.

†The presence of a negative HCV detection test result, in the absence of criteria that would allow for confirmation, indicates that the case should not be classified as probable and should not be reported to CDC.

‡Surveillance programs should provide prevention programs with information on people who have positive test outcomes for post-test counseling and referral to treatment and care, as appropriate.

§Timing of these tests may change as standard of care for HCV treatment evolves. Some jurisdictions are creating a local condition specific for reinfection as opposed to creating a new acute condition to maintain deduplication.