

Reporting Criteria for Viral hepatitis (excluding hepatitis A and E)

(1) Definition

Acute viral hepatitis due to hepatitis B (HBV), hepatitis C (HCV) and other viruses that cause hepatitis (acute exacerbation of chronic hepatitis and that of asymptomatic carriers are excluded).

(2) Clinical signs and symptoms

The disease starts typically with acute onset of general malaise, flu-like symptoms, anorexia, chills, vomiting etc., which is followed by brown urine and icterus appearing a few days later. In the early phase of the infection, in addition to fever and liver dysfunction, flu-like symptoms or acute gastritis are common. The incubation period is approximately 3 months for HBV and 2 weeks to 6 months for HCV. The clinical categories include acute icteric hepatitis, non-icteric hepatitis, highly icteric cholestatic hepatitis and fulminant hepatitis accompanied by liver failure.

(3) Reporting criteria

a) “Patients (confirmed cases)”

In compliance with Article 12 paragraph 1 of the Infectious Diseases Control Law, if a physician has examined a patient with clinical signs or symptoms as described in (2), suspected viral hepatitis (excluding hepatitis A and E), and has made a diagnosis of the viral hepatitis based on the results obtained by the laboratory method and specimen as described below, the physician shall notify the case within 7 days.

b) “Deceased individual whose death was attributed to viral hepatitis (excluding hepatitis A and E)”

In compliance with Article 12 paragraph 1 of the Infectious Diseases Control Law, if a physician has examined a deceased person with clinical signs as described in (2), and, has diagnosed that the death was due to the viral hepatitis based on the results obtained by the laboratory methods and specimens as described below, the physician shall notify the case within 7 days.

i. Hepatitis B

Laboratory method	Specimen
Detection of IgM antibody against hepatitis B core antigen (acute exacerbation case excluded)	Serum

ii. Hepatitis C

Laboratory method	Specimen
Antibody negative and detection of HCV RNA or HCV core antigen	Serum
Seroconversion or significant increase in antibody titer in paired sera	

iii. Other viral hepatitis

For hepatitis caused by viruses other than HBV and HCV, describe the name of the virus, laboratory test(s) and test specimen(s).

c) “Other points”

For fulminant hepatitis that fulfils the criteria of viral hepatitis (excluding hepatitis A and E), information regarding “fulminant hepatitis” should be described.

Criteria for fulminant hepatitis:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Hepatic coma grade II or higher due to severe liver dysfunction and the prothrombin time less than 40% within 8 weeks after development of symptoms b. Acute type: onset of encephalopathy within 10 days of disease onset; subacute type: onset of encephalopathy 10 days after disease onset |
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