

GROUP A *STREPTOCOCCUS* (GAS), INVASIVE DISEASE

(*Streptococcus pyogenes*)

Last revised May 11, 2011

I. IDENTIFICATION

A. CLINICAL DESCRIPTION:

A severe and sometimes life-threatening disease caused by the bacterium *Streptococcus pyogenes* (group A *Streptococcus*). Invasive GAS disease is associated with many different syndromes, such as pneumonia or bacteremia in association with cutaneous infection (e.g., cellulitis, infection of a surgical or non-surgical wound) or deep soft-tissue infection (e.g., necrotizing fasciitis or myositis). It can also cause meningitis, peritonitis, osteomyelitis, septic arthritis, postpartum sepsis (i.e., puerperal fever), neonatal sepsis, and non-focal bacteremia.

B. REPORTING CRITERIA: Laboratory confirmation.

C. LABORATORY CRITERIA FOR CONFIRMATION:

- Isolation of group A Streptococcus (*Streptococcus pyogenes*) from a normally sterile site (e.g., cerebrospinal fluid [CSF], blood, joint, pleural, pericardial fluid or another normally sterile site).
- Isolation from urine, sputum, abscesses or pharyngeal swabs does not meet the case definition.

D. WISCONSIN CASE DEFINITION: A clinically compatible illness that is laboratory confirmed.

II. ACTIONS REQUIRED / PREVENTION MEASURES

A. WISCONSIN DISEASE SURVEILLANCE CATEGORY II:

Report to the patient's local health department either electronically through the Wisconsin Electronic Disease Surveillance System (WEDSS), by mail or fax using an Acute and Communicable Disease Case Report ([F-44151](#)), or by other means within 72 hours upon recognition of a case or suspected case.

B. EPIDEMIOLOGY REPORTS REQUIRED:

- *Electronically* – Report through WEDSS, including appropriate disease-specific tabs
OR
- *Paper Copy* – Acute and Communicable Diseases Case Report ([F-44151](#))

C. PUBLIC HEALTH INTERVENTIONS:

In accordance with Wisconsin Administrative rule DHS 145.05, local public health should follow the methods of control recommended in the current edition of *Control of Communicable Diseases Manual*, edited by David L. Heymann, published by the American Public Health Association.

III. CONTACTS FOR CONSULTATION

A. LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT – REGIONAL OFFICES – TRIBAL AGENCIES:

<http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/localhealth/index.htm>

B. BCDER / COMMUNICABLE DISEASE EPIDEMIOLOGY SECTION: (608) 267-9003

C. WISCONSIN STATE LABORATORY OF HYGIENE / BACTERIOLOGY: (608) 263-3421

IV. RELATED REFERENCES

- Heymann DL, ed. Streptococcal diseases caused by group A (beta hemolytic) Streptococci. In: Control of Communicable Diseases Manual. 19th ed. Washington, DC: American Public Health Association, 2008:577-585.
- Pickering LK, ed. Group A streptococcal infections. In: Red Book: 2009 Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases. 28th ed. Elk Grove Village, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics, 2009:616-628.