

## HEPATITIS E

Last revised August 15, 2011

### I. IDENTIFICATION

- A. **CLINICAL DESCRIPTION:** An illness caused by the hepatitis E virus (HEV) typically characterized by onset of fever, malaise, nausea, abdominal discomfort, fatigue, and elevated serum aminotransferase levels; often followed within a few days by jaundice. Severity of illness is variable and similar to hepatitis A except that hepatitis E acquired during pregnancy can have a 10-20% case-fatality rate.
- B. **REPORTING CRITERIA:** Clinical diagnosis and laboratory confirmation.
- C. **LABORATORY CRITERIA FOR CONFIRMATION:** Positive anti-HEV IgM serology
- D. **WISCONSIN CASE DEFINITION:** A person who is laboratory confirmed and meets all of the following three criteria:
1. Discrete onset of signs and symptoms consistent with acute hepatitis
  2. Elevated ALT (SGPT) levels greater than 5 times the upper limit of normal
  3. Negative serologic test for IgM antibody to hepatitis A virus (IgM anti-HAV) and negative test for IgM antibody to hepatitis B virus core antigen (IgM anti-HBc), and negative test for hepatitis C antibody.

### 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
  - 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.  
Briefly, obtain detailed travel history and history of animal contact for 60 days prior to illness onset.

### 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 / VIROLOGY** (608) 262-3185

**IV. RELATED REFERENCES**

- Heymann DL, ed. Viral Hepatitis E . In: *Control of Communicable Diseases Manual* 19th ed. Washington, DC: American Public Health Association, 2008:298-300.
- Pickering LK, ed. Hepatitis E. In: *Red Book: 2009 Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases*. 28th ed. Elk Grove Village, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics, 2009:362.