



Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention (CDC)
Atlanta GA 30333

October 3, 2003

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Mr. Patrick J. McConnon, M.P.H.
Executive Director
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE)
2872 Woodcock Boulevard, Suite 303
Atlanta, Georgia 30341-4015

Dear Mr. McConnon:

Thank you for your letter forwarding the positions statements, adopted by CSTE in 2003.

Enclosed are the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) responses to the CSTE Position Statements sent to the National Center for Infectious Diseases. These responses have also been sent to you via electronic mail.

We look forward to continued collaboration with CSTE regarding public health issues of mutual concern.

Sincerely,



James M. Hughes, M.D.
Director
National Center for Infectious Diseases

Enclosures

National Center for Infectious Diseases Comments

CSTE POSITION STATEMENT: #03-ID-05

TITLE: Hepatitis C, Acute

Statement of desired action(s) to be taken:

CSTE Recommends:

- (1) Approve revised case definition for acute hepatitis C.

CDC Comments:

CDC supports the position statement 03-ID-05, entitled, "Hepatitis C, Acute". This position statement proposes a revision of the Hepatitis C, Acute case definition to include using the anti-HCV signal to cutoff ratio predictive of a true positive as an alternative to laboratory confirmation with a more specific assay.

CDC is in agreement with the proposed revision of the case definition and believes that using the signal to cut-off ratio as an alternative to laboratory confirmation minimizes the need for additional supplemental testing while improving the reliability of reported results. Adoption of this case definition will improve public health surveillance by reducing the proportion of case reports that need to be investigated to identify acute cases and limiting follow-up of all anti-HCV positive persons to those who have been serologically confirmed.



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention (CDC)
Atlanta GA 30333

December 18, 2003

Patrick J. McConnon, MPH
Executive Director
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
2872 Woodcock Boulevard
Suite 303
Atlanta, GA 30341-4015

Dear Mr. McConnon,

Thank you for your letters forwarding the position statements adopted by the Council of state and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) during your 2003 annual meeting.

Enclosed are the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) responses to the position statements for which you requested our comments. These position statements were circulated and comments were solicited from the appropriate parties.

We look forward to continued collaboration with CSTE regarding public health issues of mutual concern.

Sincerely,

for Karen E White
Stephen B. Thacker, M.D., M.Sc.

Attachments

**Comments Provided by the
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
On the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists' (CSTE)
2003 Position Statements**

CSTE Position Statement 03-ID-05

Title: Hepatitis C, Acute

Statement of the desired action(s) to be taken:

CSTE will approve the revised case definition for acute hepatitis C

CDC Comments and Action(s):

The revised case definition included in the acute hepatitis C position statement will be added to the CDC case definition web site (URL: <http://www.cdc.gov/epo/dphsi/casedef/index.htm>). This web site also includes the latest table of nationally notifiable infectious diseases. Effective January 1, 2004, CDC will update the web site (URL above) and acute hepatitis C will continue to be included in the table of nationally notifiable diseases for 2004.

Acute hepatitis C will maintain the same National Notifiable Disease Surveillance System (NNDSS) event code (10101) for reporting purposes. [Note: The NNDSS event codes represent the notifiable disease or condition concepts and enable States to report notifiable disease cases to CDC.] Provisional case counts will continue to be printed in Table II of the weekly *MMWR* and finalized counts in the *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) Summary of Notifiable Diseases, U.S.* (Annual Summary).

CDC will include documentation of the case definition change in the Highlight section of 2004 *MMWR Summary of Notifiable Diseases, U.S.*

In 2003, CDC will distribute a letter to state epidemiologists and NNDSS Reporters to provide them the updated NNDSS event code list and surveillance case definitions for use in transmitting data via the National Electronic Telecommunications Surveillance System (NETSS) to the NNDSS, as per finalized 2003 Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists position statements and CSTE/CDC-recommended case definitions.