



April 14, 2003

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

Dear Pat,

Thank you for your letter forwarding the position statement on Hepatitis C Virus Infection, adopted by the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE). Enclosed are comments from the Epidemiology Program Office (EPO) in response to this position statement.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve", is written above the typed name.

Stephen B. Thacker, M.D., M.Sc.
Assistant Surgeon General
Director
Epidemiology Program Office
Centers for Disease Control & Prevention
1600 Clifton Rd., NE
MS - C08
Atlanta, GA 30333

Enclosure

RECEIVED APR 16 2003

CSTE Position Statement: #02-ID-01

Hepatitis C virus infection (past or present)

- a) Hepatitis C virus infection (past or present) was designated as “nationally notifiable,” effective January 1, 2003. The NETSS code 10106 has been assigned to Hepatitis C virus infection (past or present) and was included in the latest iteration of the NNDSS event code list that SSB distributed in Fall, 2002.
- b) The EPO case definitions web site has been updated to include the “Hepatitis C virus infection (past or present)” case definition as listed in the position statement (02-ID-01). In addition, effective January 1, 2003, we will update our web site to include “Hepatitis C virus infection (past or present)” in the 2003 table of nationally notifiable infectious diseases.
- c) Hepatitis Non-A, Non-B was removed from the table of nationally notifiable infectious diseases beginning January 1, 2003. We will not eliminate the hepatitis Non-A, Non-B case definition, as recommended in position statement 02-ID-01, because data users will need it for studies they plan based on historical finalized data for this condition. In consultation with NCID’s Hepatitis Branch, we have instead decided to insert a comment field within the 2000 acute viral hepatitis case definition on the EPO case definitions web site, indicating the hepatitis Non-A, Non-B case definition is considered non-notifiable beginning January 1, 2003. In addition, our event code list, that we plan to distribute this Fall, will indicate this condition was deleted from the list of nationally notifiable diseases in 2003.
- a) NCID’s Hepatitis Branch has recommended that hepatitis C virus infection (past or present) data be excluded in the weekly *MMWR* tables in 2003 and in the *MMWR* Annual Summary for 2003 so data quality can be assessed and a determination can be made about whether to begin printing these data in 2004 in the *MMWR*. When the data are presented in the *MMWR*, they will be reported under the category heading of “Hepatitis (Viral, Chronic).”
- d) The Hepatitis Branch has initially recommended that only laboratory confirmed hepatitis C virus infection (past or present) case data should be presented when NNDSS data are reported.