



Reporting Criteria of Hepatitis E

(1) Definition

Acute hepatitis due to hepatitis E virus infection

(2) Clinical symptoms

In Japan, the infection is usually attributed to oral infection through ingestion of uncooked meat or other organs. In developing countries, the infection is mostly water-borne. The incubation period is average 6 weeks, which is longer than that of hepatitis A. Clinical pictures and prognosis including lack of progress to chronicity are similar to hepatitis A. Pregnant women in the third trimester if infected have risk of developing fulminant hepatitis, whose mortality rate is as high as 20%. No specific therapeutic measures are available.

(3) Criteria of notification

a) **“Patients (confirmed cases)”**: Physicians who examined patient having clinical signs listed in (2), suspected hepatitis E based on clinical signs/findings, and made diagnosis of hepatitis E based on findings derived from the laboratory testing as described in the left side column of the Table below must notify in compliance with the Law, Article 12, paragraph 1.

The specimens for the laboratory tests should correspond to the laboratory diagnosis chosen from the list on the right side column of the Table below.

b) **“Asymptomatic carrier”**: Physicians who examined patient having none of the clinical signs listed in (2) but diagnosed the patient as hepatitis E asymptomatic carrier based on findings of laboratory tests listed on the left side column of the Table below must notify in compliance with the Law, Article 12, paragraph 1.

The specimens for the laboratory tests should correspond to the laboratory diagnosis chosen from the list on the right side column of the Table below.

c) **“Dead body of the infected”**: Physicians who inspected a dead body having clinical signs listed in (2), suspected hepatitis E based on clinical signs and findings, and diagnosed that the death was caused by hepatitis E based on findings derived from the laboratory diagnosis listed on the left side column of the Table below must notify in compliance with the Law, Article 12, paragraph 1.

Specimens for the laboratory tests should correspond to the laboratory diagnosis chosen from the list on the right side column of the Table below.

d) **“Dead body of individuals suspected of hepatitis E”**: Physicians who examined a dead body of an individual who had characteristics of hepatitis E, and suspected that the death was caused by hepatitis E must notify immediately according to the Law, Article 12, paragraph 1.

Laboratory tests	Specimens
Detection of viral genome by PCR	Blood
Detection of IgM or IgA antibody	Serum