(Early Congenital, Primary, Secondary, Early Latent, Late Latent, Infectious Neurosyphilis, Non-infectious Neurosyphilis, Tertiary)

EARLY CONGENITAL (within 2 years of birth)

Case Definition

Confirmed Case:
Laboratory confirmation of infection:
- Identification of *Treponema pallidum* by dark-field microscopy, fluorescent antibody or equivalent examination of material from nasal discharges, skin lesions, placenta, umbilical cord or autopsy material of a neonate (up to 4 weeks of age).
  OR
- Reactive serology (non-treponemal and treponemal) from venous blood (not cord blood) in an infant/child with clinical, laboratory or radiographic evidence of congenital syphilis (including evidence on physical examination, on radiographs of long bones, a reactive CSF VDRL, an elevated CSF cell count or protein without other cause), whose mother is without documented evidence of adequate treatment.
  OR
- Detection of *T. pallidum* DNA in an appropriate clinical specimen.

Clinical Evidence

Most (2/3) will be asymptomatic. Symptoms include low birth weight, rhinitis, anemia, rash, hepatosplenomegaly, metaphyseal dystrophy and stillbirth.

PRIMARY

Case Definition

Confirmed Case:
Laboratory confirmation of infection:
- Identification of *Treponema pallidum* by dark-field microscopy, fluorescent antibody, nucleic acid testing, or equivalent examination of material from a chancre or a regional lymph node.
  OR
- Presence of one or more typical lesions (chancres) and reactive treponemal serology, regardless of non-treponemal test reactivity, in individuals with no previous history of syphilis.
  OR
- Presence of one or more typical lesions (chancres) and a fourfold or greater increase in the titre over the last known non-treponemal test in individuals with a past history of syphilis treatment.

Clinical Evidence

Painless, indurated chancre (usually genital), non-tender regional lymphadenopathy.
SECONDARY

Case Definition

Confirmed Case:
Laboratory evidence of infection:
- Identification of *T. pallidum* by dark-field microscopy, fluorescent antibody, nucleic acid testing or equivalent examination of mucocutaneous lesions, condylomata lata and reactive serology (non-treponemal and treponemal).

**OR**
- Presence of typical signs or symptoms (e.g. mucocutaneous lesions, alopecia, loss of eyelashes and lateral third of eyebrows, iritis, generalized lymphadenopathy, fever, malaise or splenomegaly).

**AND**
- Either a reactive serology (non-treponemal and treponemal) OR a fourfold or greater increase in titre over the last known non-treponemal test.

Clinical Evidence
Non-pruritic maculopapular eruption (trunk, palms, soles), generalized non-tender lymphadenopathy, condyloma lata, mucous patches, fever, malaise.

EARLY LATENT (<1 year after infection)

Case Definition

Confirmed Case:
Laboratory confirmation of infection:
- An asymptomatic patient with reactive serology (treponemal and/or non-treponemal) who within the previous 12 months had one of the following:
  - Non-reactive serology OR
  - Symptoms suggestive of primary or secondary syphilis OR
  - Exposure to a sexual partner with primary, secondary or early latent syphilis

Clinical Evidence
Asymptomatic

LATE LATENT (>1 year after infection or of unknown duration)

Case Definition

Confirmed Case:
Laboratory confirmation of infection:
- An asymptomatic patient with persistently reactive treponemal serology (regardless of non-treponemal serology reactivity) who does not meet the criteria for early latent disease and who has not been previously treated for syphilis.

Clinical Evidence
Asymptomatic
INFECTIOUS NEUROSYPHILIS (<1 year after infection)

Case Definition

Confirmed Case:
Laboratory confirmation of infection:
- Fits the criteria for Primary, Secondary or Early Latent.
  
  AND
  
  One of the following:
    - Reactive CSF-VDRL in non-bloody cerebrospinal fluid (CSF)
      
      OR
      
      - Clinical evidence of neurosyphilis AND either elevated CSF leukocytes OR elevated CSF protein in the absence of other known causes.

Clinical Evidence

Asymptomatic

NON-INFECTIONOUS NEUROSYPHILIS (>1 year after infection)

Case Definition

Confirmed Case:
Laboratory confirmation of infection:
- Reactive treponemal serology (regardless of non-treponemal serology reactivity)
  
  AND
  
  One of the following:
    - Reactive CSF-VDRL in non-bloody cerebrospinal fluid (CSF)
      
      OR
      
      - Clinical evidence of neurosyphilis AND either elevated CSF leukocytes OR elevated CSF protein in the absence of other known causes.

Clinical Evidence

Asymptomatic

TERTIARY (Other than Neurosyphilis)

Case Definition

Confirmed Case:
Laboratory confirmation of infection:
- Reactive treponemal serology (regardless of non-treponemal serology reactivity) together with characteristic late abnormalities of the cardiovascular system, bone, skin or other structures, in the absence of other known causes of these abnormalities (*T. pallidum* is rarely seen in these lesions, although when present, is diagnostic).
  
  AND
  
  - No clinical or laboratory evidence of neurosyphilis.

Clinical Evidence

Aortic lesions or gummas on skin, viscera, bone and mucosal surfaces.
Reporting Requirements

- Report confirmed cases to PHAS Surveillance Team via ANDS.
- Submit case report forms as soon as completed.

Forms

See Surveillance Forms for details:

- Nova Scotia Notifiable Disease Surveillance Case Report Form
- Syphilis Case Report Form
- STI Contact Follow-up Form

Data Entry

ANDS Quick Reference Guide for STIs