

## DIARRHEA; UNSPECIFIED

*For Diarrhea with a Specified Etiology; see Bacterial, Viral, and Protozoa-Related Gastroenteritis Case Definitions; Does Not Include Functional Diarrhea or Diarrhea Secondary to Drugs, Radiation, Allergies, Diet, or Toxin Ingestion.*

### Background

This case definition was developed in 2016 by the Armed Forces Health Surveillance Branch (AFHSB) for the purpose of epidemiological surveillance of diarrhea and gastroenteritis of unspecified etiology in military-associated populations. The definition is based on a case definition developed for a *Medical Surveillance Monthly Report (MSMR)* article on bacterial, viral, and parasitic gastrointestinal infections including diarrheal illness.<sup>1</sup>

### Clinical Description

Diarrhea is symptom of intestinal irritation or infection associated with an increase in the frequency of bowel movements, the looseness of stool, or both. The absolute definition of diarrhea varies by organization. The World Health Organization defines diarrhea as having three or more loose or liquid stools per day, or as having more stools than is normal for that person.<sup>2</sup> Diarrhea is caused by increased secretion of fluid into the intestine, reduced absorption of fluid from the intestine, or rapid passage of stool through the intestine. Symptoms include abdominal cramps, abdominal pain, fever, and dehydration. The symptoms of acute diarrhea can be treated with absorbents, anti-motility medication, and bismuth compounds. They are usually mild to moderate and self-limited within 1-2 days. Diarrhea has many causes including change in diet, stress, medications, viruses, bacteria, and parasites.<sup>3</sup>

### Case Definition and Incidence Rules

For surveillance purposes, a case of diarrhea is defined as:

- *One hospitalization or outpatient medical encounter with any of the case defining diagnoses of unspecified diarrhea (see ICD9 and ICD10 code lists below) in the primary or secondary diagnostic position.*

#### *Incidence rules:*

For individuals who meet the case definition:

- The incidence date is considered the date of the first hospitalization, outpatient medical encounter or reportable medical event that includes a defining diagnosis of unspecified diarrhea.

*(continued on next page)*

<sup>1</sup> Armed Forces Health Surveillance Center. Gastrointestinal Infections, Active Component, U.S. Armed Forces, 2000-2012. *Medical Surveillance Monthly Report (MSMR)*. 2013 October; 20(10): 7-11.

<sup>2</sup> Diarrhea. <http://www.who.int/topics/diarrhoea/en>. Accessed December 13, 2013.

<sup>3</sup> Travelers' Diarrhea. [http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dbmd/diseaseinfo/travelersdiarrhea\\_g.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dbmd/diseaseinfo/travelersdiarrhea_g.htm). Accessed December 10, 2013.



### Case Definition and Incidence Rules *(continued)*

- An individual is considered a new incident case if *at least 60 days* have passed since the last medical encounter with a case defining diagnosis of unspecified diarrhea (*see explanation of “gap” rule below*).

#### Exclusions:

- None

### Codes

The following ICD9 and ICD10 codes are included in the case definition:

Condition	ICD-10-CM Codes	ICD-9-CM Codes
Diarrhea	A09 (infectious gastroenteritis and colitis, unspecified)	009 ( <i>ill-defined intestinal infections</i> )
		- 009.0 (infectious colitis, enteritis, and gastroenteritis) [codes not included in other case definitions; not in MSMR]
- 009.1 (colitis, enteritis, and gastroenteritis of presumed infectious origin)		
- 009.2 (infectious diarrhea)		
		- 009.3 (diarrhea of presumed infectious origin)
	R19.7 (diarrhea, unspecified)	787.91 (diarrhea; diarrhea not otherwise specified)

### Development and Revisions

- In April of 2016 the case definition was updated to include ICD10 codes.
- The definition was developed by the AFHSC Medical Surveillance Monthly Report (MSMR) staff for an October 2013 article on gastrointestinal infections caused by parasites.<sup>1</sup> The case definition was developed based on reviews of the ICD9 codes, the scientific literature, and previous AFHSC analyses.

#### Case Definition and Incidence Rule Rationale

- This case definition uses a 60-day “gap in care” incidence rule to define a new incident case of unspecified diarrhea. Use of this methodology presumes that medical encounters for unspecified diarrhea that occur within 60 days of a previous such encounter constitute follow-up care of the previously diagnosed case. The goal of the “gap in care” rule is to lessen the frequency with which encounters for follow-up care are treated as new incident cases of the condition. The “gap in care” rule differs slightly from an absolute 60-day incidence rule in which an individual may be considered an incident case once every 60 days.



### Code Set Determination and Rationale

- This case definition does not include diarrhea or gastroenteritis secondary to specified microorganisms drugs, radiation, allergies, and diet, and does not include diarrhea or gastroenteritis secondary to seafood toxin or other non-bacterial food toxin ingestion (see *Comments* section)

### Reports

- None

### Review

- Apr 2016 Case definition reviewed and adopted by the AFHSC Surveillance Methods and Standards (SMS) working group.
- Feb 2013 Case definition reviewed and adopted by the AFHSC MSMR staff.

### Comments

- The following codes are not included in the code set.

Condition	ICD-10-CM Codes	ICD-9-CM Codes
Diarrhea	<i>K52 (other and unspecified noninfective gastroenteritis and colitis)</i>	<i>558 (other and unspecified noninfectious gastroenteritis and colitis)</i>
	- K52.0 (gastroenteritis and colitis due to radiation)	558.1 (gastroenteritis and colitis due to radiation)
	- K52.1 (toxic gastroenteritis and colitis)	558.2 (toxic gastroenteritis and colitis)
	- K52.2 (allergic and dietetic gastroenteritis and colitis)	558.3 (allergic gastroenteritis and colitis)
	- K52.8 (other specified noninfective gastroenteritis and colitis)	558.4 (eosinophilic gastroenteritis and colitis)
	- K52.81 (eosinophilic gastritis or gastroenteritis)	- 558.41 (eosinophilic gastroenteritis) - 535.70 (eosinophilic gastritis, without mention of hemorrhage) - 525.71 (eosinophilic gastritis, with hemorrhage)
	- K52.82 (eosinophilic colitis)	558.42 (eosinophilic colitis)
	- K52.89 (other specified noninfective gastroenteritis and colitis)	558.9 (other and unspecified noninfectious gastroenteritis and colitis)
	K52.9 (noninfective gastroenteritis and colitis, unspecified)	558.9 (other and unspecified noninfectious gastroenteritis and colitis)

