

# Nongonococcal Urethritis

## 1996 CDC Case Definition

### Clinical description

Urethral inflammation that is not the result of infection with *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*. Urethral inflammation may be diagnosed by the presence of one of the following criteria:

- A visible abnormal urethral discharge, or
- A positive leukocyte esterase test from a male aged less than 60 years who does not have a history of kidney disease or bladder infection, prostate enlargement, urogenital anatomic anomaly, or recent urinary tract instrumentation, or
- Microscopic evidence of urethritis (greater than or equal to 5 white blood cells per high-power field) on a Gram stain of a urethral smear

### Laboratory criteria for diagnosis

- No evidence of *N. gonorrhoeae* infection by culture, Gram stain, or antigen or nucleic acid detection

### Case classification

*Confirmed:* a clinically compatible case in a male in whom gonorrhea is not found, either by culture, Gram stain, or antigen or nucleic acid detection

### Comment

Nongonococcal urethritis is a clinical diagnosis of exclusion. The syndrome may result from infection with any of several agents (see [Chlamydia trachomatis, Genital Infection](#)). If gonorrhea and chlamydia are excluded, a clinically compatible illness should be classified as NGU. An illness in a male that meets the case definition of NGU and *C. trachomatis* infection should be classified as chlamydia.