

**Table 3 Case classification in the national notifiable diseases surveillance system in selected countries**

Structure	Australia	United States of America	Islamic Republic of Iran	
			Current	Proposed
Criteria for patient classification	Confirmed case (requires laboratory definitive & clinical evidence) Probable case (requires laboratory suggestive evidence) Suspected case	Confirmed case Probable case Laboratory-confirmed case (confirmed by one or more laboratory method according to each notifiable disease) Clinically compatible case (a clinical syndrome generally compatible with the disease) Supportive laboratory results (specified laboratory results consistent with the diagnosis but not meeting the criteria for laboratory confirmation) Epidemiologically linked case (a case in which the patient has/had contact with one or more persons who have/had the disease and transmission of the agent by the usual modes of transmission is plausible) Suspected case	Confirmed case Probable case Suspected case	Confirmed case Probable case Suspected case Laboratory-confirmed case Clinically compatible case Epidemiologically linked case
Definition of variables	Case definitions since 1994	Case definitions since 1990	Case definitions for adopting guidelines	Developing case definitions for all disease reporting
Responsible organization for developing case definition	National Health and Medical Research Council	Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists, in collaboration with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	National Committee for Adopting Guidelines	Health Information Management Advisory Committee