

Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome

Agent: Serious sequelae associated with infection with Shiga toxin-producing bacteria, such as *Escherichia coli* or *Shigella*.

Mode of Transmission: See sections on *E. coli* Infection, Shiga Toxin-Producing or Shigellosis.

Signs/Symptoms: Classic signs of hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS) include red blood cell destruction (hemolytic anemia), low number of platelets (thrombocytopenia), and acute kidney failure. Symptoms include decreased frequency of urination, fatigue, progression to kidney failure, often requiring dialysis, as well as neurological impairment (e.g., stroke or seizures). HUS, if it occurs, develops on average seven days after the first symptoms of infection.

Prevention: See sections on *E. coli* Infection, Shiga Toxin-Producing or Shigellosis.

Other Important Information: Five to ten percent of persons diagnosed with Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* infection develop HUS. The syndrome occurs in up to 20% of children with *E. coli* O157 infection. See sections on *E. coli* Infection, Shiga Toxin-Producing or Shigellosis.

Two cases of HUS were reported in 2010. This is consistent with the five-year average of 1.6 cases per year. Both illnesses followed infection with Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* O157:H7. The two cases occurred in children in the 1-9 year age group and both were white females from the southwest region. One occurred in the second quarter and the other occurred in the fourth quarter of the year.