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Laboratory reports of hepatitis A infections in England and Wales, January to March 2019

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Laboratory reports of hepatitis A infections: January to March 2019

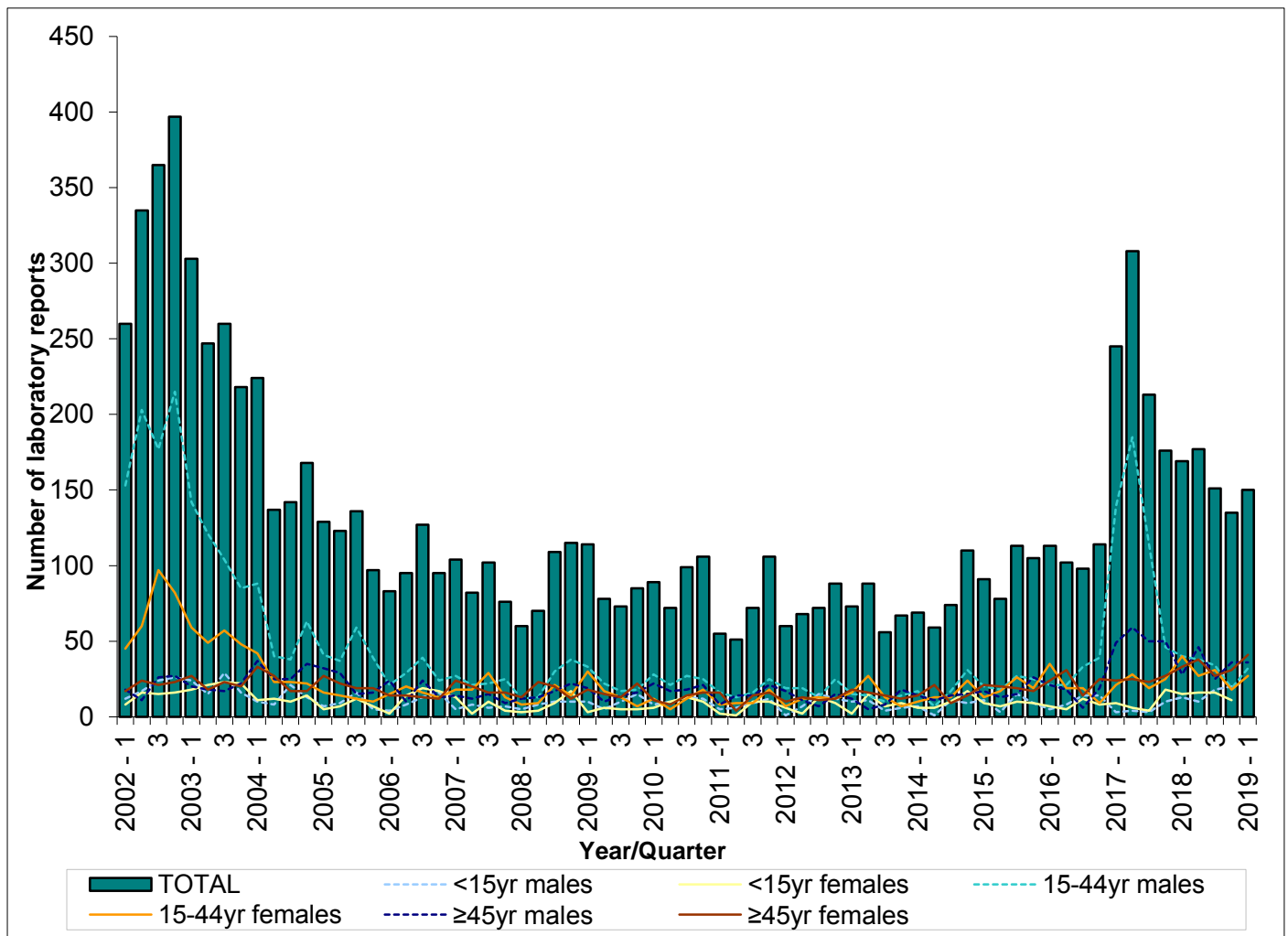
There were a total of 150 laboratory reports of new patients with hepatitis A reported to Public Health England (PHE) during the first quarter of 2019 (January – March 2019). This is a 11.1% increase on the reports in the fourth quarter of 2018 (n=135), (Figure 1). Of these, 108 reports of new patients remained after exclusion of patients with samples sent to the Virus Reference Department (VRD) that were not confirmed as having had a recent hepatitis A virus infection (see Figure 2).

The London PHE region accounted for 32.0% (n=48) of reports, followed by 15.3% (n=23) from the East of England region. Age group and sex were well reported (99.3% complete) (Table 1). There were 78 (52.0%) reports among those aged 45 years and over, followed by 59 (39.2%) reports among those in the 15-44 years age group and 13 (8.7%) in those aged under 15 years. Females accounted for the slight majority of reports overall (51.3%, n=77) with the largest proportion of females observed in the under 15 age group (69.2%, n=9).

Table 1: Laboratory reports of hepatitis A in England and Wales, January – March 2019

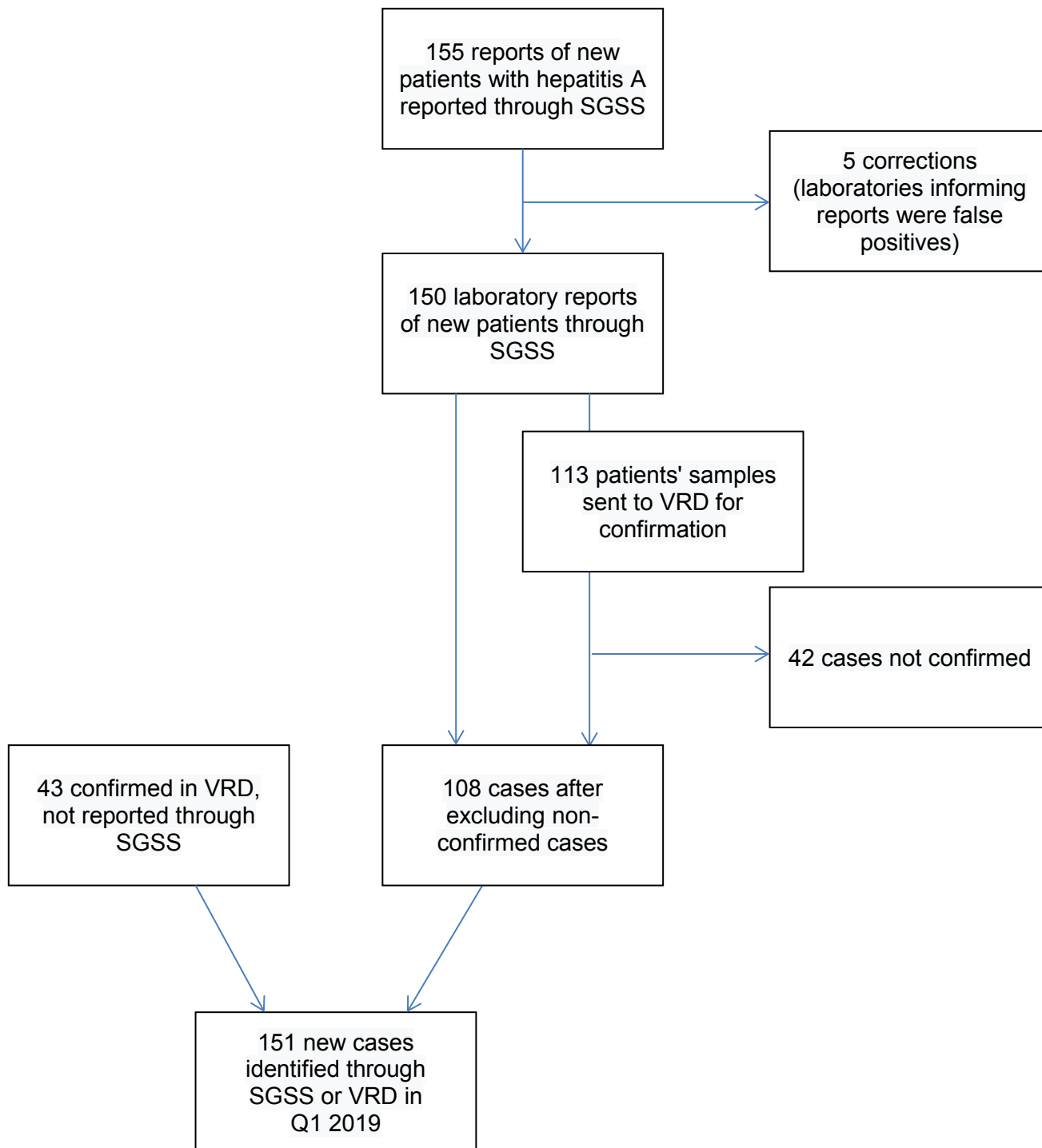
Age group	Female	Male	Unknown	Total
<1 years	0	0	0	0
1-4 years	0	0	0	0
5-9 years	4	1	0	5
10-14 years	5	3	0	8
15-24 years	6	11	0	17
25-34 years	9	14	0	23
35-44 years	12	7	0	19
45-54 years	12	7	0	19
55-64 years	6	9	1	16
≥65 years	23	20	0	43
Total	77	72	1	150

Figure 1: Laboratory reports of hepatitis A by age and sex (England and Wales), January 2002 to March 2019*



* All figures are provisional and subject to change as records are updated.

Figure 2: Flowchart of laboratory reports of hepatitis A and confirmation status by the VRD (England and Wales), January – March 2019

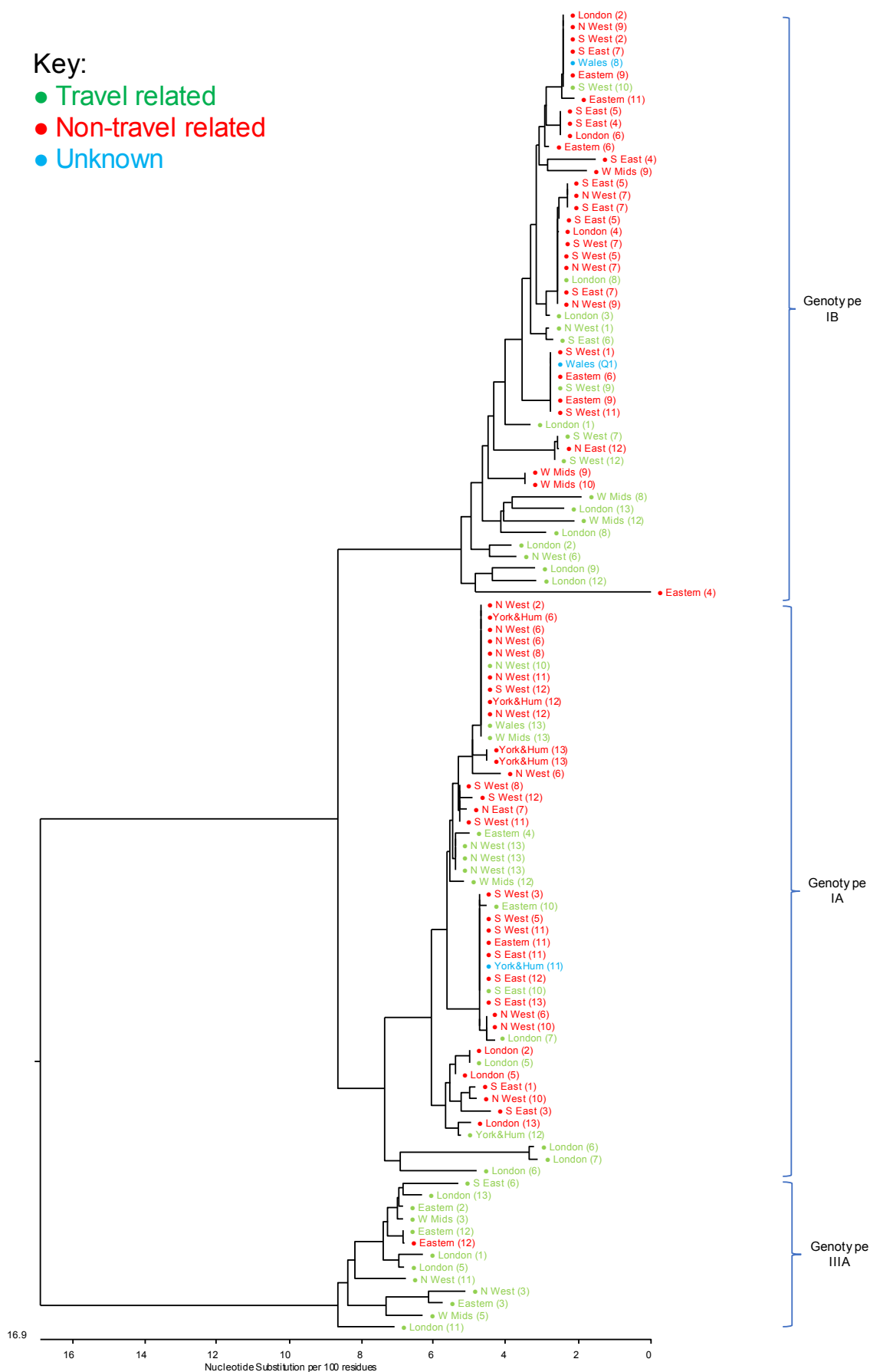


Reference laboratory confirmation and phylogeny of hepatitis A infection

Of the 150 patients reported through SGSS as having acute HAV infection during the first quarter of 2019, 113 (75.3%) had samples forwarded to the Virus Reference Department for confirmation. Forty-two of the patients were not confirmed to have acute HAV infection. The remaining 71 patients were confirmed to have acute HAV infection. In addition, 43 patients were confirmed to have acute HAV infection that had not been reported through the laboratory reporting system although all the English cases were recorded in HPZone.

A total of 110 patients could be genotyped over this period; 48 were genotype IA (43.6%), 49 were genotype IB (44.6%) and 13 were genotype IIIA (11.8%). Of these samples 45 were associated with travel (40.9%), 62 had no travel history (56.4%) and three had no information (2.7%). This information is presented as a phylogenetic tree. Each sequence is represented by a dot with the patient region and the week of sampling in brackets.

Phylogenetic tree of genotype IA, IB, IIA and IIIA sequences January to March 2019 (n=77)



About Public Health England

Public Health England exists to protect and improve the nation's health and wellbeing, and reduce health inequalities. We do this through world-class science, research, knowledge and intelligence, advocacy, partnerships and the delivery of specialist public health services. We are an executive agency of the Department of Health Social Care, and are a distinct delivery organisation with operational autonomy to advise and support government, local authorities and the NHS in a professionally independent manner.

About Health Protection Report

Health Protection Report is a national public health bulletin for England and Wales, published by Public Health England. It is PHE's principal channel for the dissemination of laboratory data relating to pathogens and infections/communicable diseases of public health significance and of reports on outbreaks, incidents and ongoing investigations.

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