

02. SPECIFIC TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE NRC FOR ARBOVIRUSES: WEST NILE, DENGUE, YELLOW FEVER, TBE, CHIKUNGUNYA AND ZIKA VIRUS

AIMS

- Each National Reference Centre (NRC) must meet both the general and the specific terms of reference.
- In the specific terms of reference, the NRC tasks dedicated to each selected pathogen or group of pathogens are described.
- These aim to guarantee the knowledge, the know-how and the epidemiological surveillance expertise of each NRC.
- The task list is not exhaustive and can be modified in function of the requirements and the evolution of knowledge and techniques.
- In the event a NRC is unable to perform a specific task, this can be subcontracted to preserve the knowledge in the NRC. If this is the case, quality of the subcontracted task has to be proven and assured.
- Each list of specific terms of reference is divided into three parts: 1) a reminder of the specific missions, 2) a description of the tasks that the NRC must be able to do including the competencies and 3) a list of the tasks that will be asked in a particular context.
- The type of analysis indicated for each specific pathogen in each particular situation (diagnosis or confirmation, typing, sensitivity to antimicrobial substances, virulence...) is defined.
- The collaboration with national and international surveillance systems (e.g. ECDC) and when relevant with other reference centres (European Medicines Agency, food safety reference centres, veterinary reference centres, ...) is also a priority.

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SPECIFIC MISSIONS

1. To ensure the diagnosis of clinically suspected cases.
2. To develop, validate and perform new molecular diagnosis and typing tools.
3. To participate in existing national and international networks.
4. To monitor circulating strains by performing microbial typing.
5. To participate in national surveillance, transfer microbiological data (through e-health reporting) and contribute to the presentation and interpretation of the results in a public health approach.
6. To interact with epidemiologists and other NRC's with the aim to sustain/adapt the use of the various outputs (with regards to quality of care, recommendations for control/prevention, ...).

THE NRC MUST BE ABLE TO (LEVEL OF COMPETENCES)

1. Look for specific antibodies, i.e. seroneutralisation.
2. Detect viral RNA by RT-PCR.
3. Perform viral culture on cell lines.
4. Perform the genotyping by sequencing.
5. Have access to whole genome sequencing and expertise in species specific bioinformatics analysis.

TASKS THAT WILL BE ASKED IN A PARTICULAR CONTEXT

1. To ensure the diagnosis of clinically suspected cases.
2. To collaborate with veterinary agencies, if relevant.
3. To participate in EVD Labnet and contribute to WHO centre for tropical diseases or ECDC activities when requested.
4. To participate in the surveillance of arboviruses in sentinel or reservoir (wild or domestic) animals if relevant.
5. To collaborate with environmental (ecology, parasitology, veterinary, entomology) laboratories for tick-borne and mosquito-borne viruses and participate to a joint output report, if relevant.