

05. SPECIFIC TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE NRC FOR BRUCELLA SPP

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 provide final diagnosis of human Brucellosis, namely by combining serological and bacteriological analyses together with epidemiological/clinical information, when available.
2. To provide typing characterisation of the strains.
3. To collaborate with existing national and international networks.
4. 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.
5. 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. Confirm the diagnosis (especially the species *B. abortus*, *B. canis*, *B. melitensis*, *B. suis*) by classical and/or molecular techniques.
2. Detect specific antibodies (IgM and IgG) and to contribute to cross-reaction problems.
3. Detect *Brucella* by molecular techniques in a clinical sample.
4. Genotype strains and to make the link between animal and human strains by managing a common profiles database.
5. Provide antibiotic susceptibility of strains, when requested.
6. Have access to whole genome sequencing and expertise in species specific bioinformatics analysis.

TASKS THAT WILL BE ASKED IN A PARTICULAR CONTEXT

1. To provide first line or confirmatory diagnosis in suspected cases.
2. To identify the reactivation of chronic cases.
3. To collaborate with the reference lab of national animal and food safety agencies (one health perspective) and participate to a joint output when relevant.
4. To collaborate with veterinary labs and networks: medvetnet, covetlabs, epizone ...