

12. SPECIFIC TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE NRC FOR *COXIELLA BURNETII* AND *BARTONELLA*

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.

12. SPECIFIC TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE NRC FOR COXIELLA BURNETII AND BARTONELLA

SPECIFIC MISSIONS

1. To confirm the diagnosis of clinical or laboratory suspected cases by serology and/or molecular biology testing.
2. To monitor circulating strains by performing microbial typing.
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, ...).

COXIELLA BURNETII

THE NRC MUST BE ABLE TO (LEVEL OF COMPETENCES)

1. Perform the serological diagnosis and to distinguish between an IgG and an IgM response.
2. Distinguish between immunological responses against phase I and against phase II proteins.
3. Detect the presence of the pathogen by molecular techniques on clinical samples (blood, serum, biopsies).
4. Have expertise in isolation, multiplication and genotyping of strains.
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 support microbiological investigation of a confirmed case.
2. To collaborate with the reference lab of national animal and food safety agencies (one health perspective) and participate to a joint report.
3. To collaborate with veterinary labs and networks when relevant.

BARTONELLA

THE NRC MUST BE ABLE TO (LEVEL OF COMPETENCES)

1. Possess reference strains from *Bartonella* spp.
2. Perform the serological diagnosis and to distinguish between an IgG and an IgM response.
3. Detect the presence of the pathogen by molecular techniques on clinical samples (blood, serum, biopsies).
4. Confirm the species by PCR and sequencing (16S, rpoB...).
5. Have access in whole genome sequencing and expertise in species specific bioinformatics analysis.

TASKS THAT WILL BE ASKED IN A PARTICULAR CONTEXT

1. To confirm diagnosis when requested.
2. To collaborate with other reference labs including environmental and veterinary labs and participate to a joint output.
3. To ensure a good representativeness for surveillance purposes, including geographical coverage when relevant.