

14. SPECIFIC TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE NRC FOR ENTEROVIRUSES INCLUDING POLIOVIRUSES AND PARECHOVIRUSES

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.

14. SPECIFIC TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE NRC FOR ENTEROVIRUSES INCLUDING POLIOVIRUSES AND PARECHOVIRUSES

SPECIFIC MISSIONS

1. To confirm the diagnosis of enterovirus (including poliovirus and parechovirus) by molecular techniques.
2. To monitor circulating strains by performing microbial typing.
3. To contribute to the microbiological investigation of a suspected polio case.
4. To participate in the poliovirus surveillance.
5. To collaborate with existing networks (i.e. ENPEN
6. 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.
7. 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. Detect the major enteroviruses by PCR from any sample (human and environmental).
2. Perform the enteroviruses culture from PCR positive samples.
3. Characterize enteroviruses antigenically, using specific neutralizing antibodies, or genomically (PCR-RFLP, sequencing).
4. Follow the required biosafety level defined by WHO.
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 confirm all suspected cases of poliomyelitis.
2. To distinguish wild polio strains and vaccine strains.
3. To participate in the committee for polio eradication.
4. To contribute to environmental surveys of poliovirus if asked.
5. To ensure a good representativeness for surveillance purposes for non-polio enterovirus, including geographical coverage when relevant.