

## 19. SPECIFIC TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE NRC FOR HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS

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### 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 confirm the presence of HPV in clinical samples.
2. To contribute and collaborate with the national and international networks.
3. 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 including the impact of HPV vaccination.
4. 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 HPV DNA and RNA by virological and cytological techniques.
2. Perform the genotyping by internationally recognized techniques.
3. Validate high-risk HPV group tests and genotyping tests in collaboration with regional, national and international networks of HPV reference laboratories.
4. Perform serological tests to detect anti-HPV antibodies and to understand strengths and limitations of existing serological test systems.
5. Perform tests which distinguish variants of HPV types, or to collaborate with laboratories able to perform these specialised tests.
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 confirm laboratory or clinically suspected cases when requested.
2. To participate in serological surveillance studies when requested.
3. To participate to international networks of HPV reference laboratories.
4. To ensure a good representativeness for surveillance purposes, including geographical coverage when relevant.
5. To contribute to or to collaborate with biobanking of human specimen on which HPV testing may be performed.