

23. SPECIFIC TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE NRC FOR MEASLES, RUBELLA AND MUMPS 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 confirm the diagnosis by molecular techniques.
2. To collaborate in 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 assessment of the vaccination impact.
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, ...).
5. To collaborate with the National reference centre for congenital infections in case of a positive rubella sample in pregnant women or in a new-born.

THE NRC MUST BE ABLE TO (LEVEL OF COMPETENCES)

1. Detect the presence of specific IgG and IgM antibodies in serum and oral fluid.
2. Validate and perform a fast diagnostic test for clinical samples (salivary tests...).
3. Perform the virus culture.
4. Detect viral RNA by RT-PCR.
5. Perform the genotyping by sequencing of the N gene for measles virus, the SH gene for the mumps virus and of the E1 gene for rubella virus.
6. Differentiate between vaccine and wild-type viruses.
7. Have access to whole genome sequencing and expertise in species specific bioinformatics analysis.
8. Manage a collection of representative strains.

TASKS THAT WILL BE ASKED IN A PARTICULAR CONTEXT

1. To confirm laboratory or clinically suspected cases when requested.
2. To type the isolates from measles cases and cluster of mumps cases.
3. To contribute to the elimination committee of measles and rubella in Belgium.
4. To participate in the identification and assessment of vaccine failure.
5. To participate in seroprevalence studies if requested.
6. To collaborate with the international networks (WHO, ECDC, EUVAC).
7. To ensure a good representativeness for surveillance purposes, including geographical coverage when relevant.