

## 26. SPECIFIC TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE NRC FOR *NEISSERIA MENINGITIDIS*

---

### 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.

## 26. SPECIFIC TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE NRC FOR *NEISSERIA MENINGITIDIS*

---

### SPECIFIC MISSIONS

1. To monitor circulating strains by performing microbial typing.
2. To monitor the antibiotic susceptibility of circulating strains.
3. To collaborate with regional mandatory notification services with the aim to reach an exhaustive surveillance on invasive *N. meningitidis* in Belgium with a maximum of cases confirmed by the NRC.
4. To collaborate in national and international networks like the ECDC network.
5. 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 in the assessment of vaccine impact.
6. 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 by classical and molecular techniques.
2. Perform the complete serotyping.
3. Perform the genotyping by using an internationally recognized method (WGS, MLST, FetA, Por-A typing,...).
4. Have access to whole genome sequencing and expertise in species specific bioinformatics analysis.

### TASKS THAT WILL BE ASKED IN A PARTICULAR CONTEXT

1. To ensure the diagnosis in case of culture negative cases.
2. To perform new diagnostic and typing techniques especially in negative cases.
3. To participate in the identification and assessment of vaccine failure.
4. To identify the involved clone (if any) and to compare it with circulating strains in other countries, in case of outbreaks or increased virulence.
5. To monitor the antibiotic susceptibility of antibiotics used in curative and preventive care.
6. To ensure a good representativeness for surveillance purposes, including geographical coverage when relevant.