

28. SPECIFIC TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE NRC FOR RABIES 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 perform the diagnosis.
2. To monitor vaccination after exposure.
3. To perform microbial typing of the isolated strains.
4. To collaborate in national and international networks.
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.
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. Detect viral RNA by RT-PCR in clinical samples (saliva, skin, nervous tissue, ...).
2. Isolate the virus.
3. Detect specific antigens in nervous tissues.
4. Detect specific antibodies in serum and CSF.
5. Perform the antigenic typing.
6. Compare vaccine and circulating strains.
7. Have access to whole genome sequencing.

TASKS THAT WILL BE ASKED IN A PARTICULAR CONTEXT

1. To detect rabies antibodies in vaccinated individuals.
2. To collaborate with the veterinary reference laboratories (one health perspective) and participate to a joint output.
3. To participate in the monitoring of the epidemiology in animal reservoirs in order to contribute to risk assessment.
4. To genotype rabies strains.
5. To assist the authorities with rapid lab support and expert advice for outbreak control and import prevention.
6. To check the immunisation status of people receiving pre-or post-exposure prophylaxis.