

## 36. SPECIFIC TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE NRC FOR *STREPTOCOCCUS AGALACTIAE*

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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 characterize invasive strains.
2. To monitor the antibiotic susceptibility and emerging resistance genotypes.
3. To monitor invasive and colonizing strains by performing microbial typing.
4. To raise awareness on prophylactic strategies and to contribute to the evaluation of prophylactic measures.
5. To develop expertise related to rapid screening tests.
6. To collaborate with national and international existing networks.
7. 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.
8. 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/or molecular techniques.
2. Perform the capsular typing by serologic and/or genotypic methods.
3. Perform the pili typing by molecular method.
4. Determine the antibiotic susceptibility.
5. Perform the rapid diagnosis from swabs by PCR.
6. Perform PCR targeting genes for resistance to antibiotics.
7. Perform typing with Multi Locus Sequence Typing.
8. Have access to whole genome sequencing and expertise in species specific bioinformatics analysis.
9. Manage a collection of representative invasive isolates and colonizing isolate.

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

1. To confirm and type *Streptococcus agalactiae* strains isolated in invasive cases.
2. To confirm penicillin MIC and to monitor susceptibility to antibiotics relevant to curative and preventive care on isolated strains.
3. To contribute to the development, diffusion and evaluation of prophylactic measures to prevent neonatal cases.
4. To follow the development of vaccines and to provide expert advice to the health authorities.
5. To ensure a good representativeness for surveillance purposes, including geographical coverage when relevant.