

39. SPECIFIC TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE NRC FOR *VIBRIO CHOLERA*E AND OTHER *VIBRIO SPP.*

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.

39. SPECIFIC TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE NRC FOR *VIBRIO CHOLERAE* AND OTHER *VIBRIO SPP.*

SPECIFIC MISSIONS

1. To confirm the diagnosis of toxigenic *V. cholerae* serogroup O1 and O139.
2. To confirm the diagnosis of *V. cholerae* non O1, non O139 and other *Vibrio species* pathogenic for human causing invasive diseases or suppurative infections.
3. To confirm the diagnosis of toxigenic *V. parahaemolyticus*.
4. To monitor strains by performing typing on isolated strains of *V. cholerae*.
5. To monitor the antimicrobial susceptibility.
6. To collaborate with existing national or international 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 bacteriological diagnosis of cholera by classical methods and/or molecular methods on isolates and from clinical specimens.
2. Determine the major serotypes.
3. Determine the antimicrobial susceptibility.
4. Determine the pathotype of the isolated strains by molecular methods.
5. Perform genotyping on confirmed potentially virulent strains.
6. Determine the presence of genes coding for toxins produced by *V. cholerae* and *V. parahaemolyticus*.
7. Have access to whole genome sequencing and expertise in species specific bioinformatics analysis.

TASKS THAT WILL BE ASKED IN A PARTICULAR CONTEXT

1. To perform or confirm the diagnosis of *V. cholerae*, *V. parahaemolyticus*, and other *Vibrio* spp. on isolates and from clinical specimens together with environmental specimens, when requested.
2. To type all potentially virulent isolated strains.
3. To collaborate with the national and European food safety agencies and participate to a joint output report.
4. To participate in surveillance of the presence of *Vibrio* in Belgian recreational waters.
5. To organize surveillance of invasive diseases and soft and skin tissue infections caused by *Vibrio* spp. in Belgium.