# Botulism, Infant

Merlin disease code: 00511 Botulism, Infant

Specimens (food or clinical) must be sent to the Bureau of Public Health Laboratories and must be cleared through the Bureau of Epidemiology (850) 245-4401.

This condition has been identified as a potential bioterrorism agent by the CDC.

## Clinical criteria for case classification

An illness of infants, characterized by constipation, poor feeding, and “failure to thrive” that may be followed by progressive weakness, impaired respiration, and death.

## Laboratory criteria for case classification

Either of the following:
- Detection of botulinum toxin in stool or serum
- Or isolation of *Clostridium botulinum* from stool.

## Epidemiological criteria for case classification

Not applicable.

## Case classification

**Confirmed:**
A clinically compatible illness in a child <1 year old with laboratory criteria.

## Criteria to distinguish a new case from previous reports

Not applicable.

## Comments

Consultation or BabyBIG® (*botulism hyper-immune globulin*) can be obtained from the California Department of Health Services by immediately calling the 24-hour number at (510) 231-7600. Also, contact DOH Bureau of Epidemiology to arrange for testing.