Botulism, Other

Merlin disease code: 00512 Botulism, Other

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 in a patient aged ≥12 months of age who has no history of ingestion of suspect food and has no wounds. Common symptoms are diplopia, blurred vision, and bulbar weakness. Symmetric paralysis may progress rapidly.

Laboratory criteria for case classification
Either of the following:
- Detection of botulinum toxin in clinical specimen
- Or isolation of *Clostridium botulinum* from clinical specimen.

Epidemiological criteria for case classification
A person ≥1 year old with no history of ingestion of suspect food and no wounds.

Case classification
**Confirmed:**
A clinically compatible illness in a person with laboratory criteria and epidemiologic criteria.

Criteria to distinguish a new case from previous reports
Not applicable.

Comments
Note that this is one of the few diseases in which an epi-linked case without laboratory confirmation is considered confirmed.

Heptavalent botulinum antitoxin is available through the Bureau of Epidemiology at (850) 245-4401, 24 hours per day.