



Merlin disease code: 02400 Glanders (*Burkholderia mallei*)

No paper case report form



Isolates for all cases must be sent to the Bureau of Public Health Laboratories

No Merlin extended data

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

Clinical criteria for case classification

The types of infection include localized, pus forming cutaneous infections, pulmonary infections, bloodstream infections, and chronic suppurative infections of the skin. Generalized symptoms of glanders include fever, muscle aches, chest pain, muscle tightness, and headache. Additional symptoms have included excessive tearing of the eyes, light sensitivity, and diarrhea.

- Localized infections: if there is a cut or scratch in the skin, a localized infection with ulceration will develop within 1 to 5 days at the site where the bacteria entered the body. Swollen lymph nodes may also be apparent. Infections involving the mucous membranes in the eyes, nose, and respiratory tract will cause increased mucous production from the affected sites.
- Pulmonary infections: in pulmonary infections, pneumonia, pulmonary abscesses, and pleural effusion can occur. Chest X-rays will show localized infection in the lobes of the lungs.
- Bloodstream infections: glanders bloodstream infections are usually fatal within 7 to 10 days.

Laboratory criteria for case classification

Isolation of *Burkholderia mallei* from blood, sputum, urine, or skin lesions. Serologic assays are not available.

Epidemiological criteria for case classification

Not applicable.

Case classification

Confirmed:

A clinically compatible illness in a person with laboratory criteria.

Criteria to distinguish a new case from previous reports

Not applicable.