

Merlin disease code: 03700 Tetanus

[Paper case report form](#)
Merlin extended data required

Clinical criteria for case classification

Either of the following:

- Acute onset of hypertonia or painful muscular contractions (usually of the muscles of the jaw and neck) and generalized muscle spasms diagnosed as tetanus by a health care provider in the absence of a more likely diagnosis
- **Or** death with tetanus listed on the death certificate as the cause of death or a significant condition contributing to death.

Laboratory criteria for case classification

Not applicable.

Epidemiological criteria for case classification

Not applicable.

Case classification

Probable:

A clinically compatible illness or death.

Criteria to distinguish a new case from previous reports

Not applicable.

Comments

There is no definition for “confirmed” tetanus.