

LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT DISEASE INVESTIGATION STEPS

NC REPORTABLE DISEASE/CONDITION	INFECTIOUS AGENT (S)
FOODBORNE POISONING	<i>ciguatera fish poisoning</i>
PREPARING FOR INVESTIGATION	
KNOW THE DISEASE/CONDITION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read about <i>Foodborne Poisoning</i> in the CD Manual. • See the case definition for Foodborne Poisoning: ciguatera in the CD Manual. • Study APHA <i>Control of Communicable Diseases Manual</i>, 19th ed., page 247. • Print and review reporting forms: <p><i>Part 1: Confidential Disease Report (DHHS 2124)</i> <i>Part 2: Foodborne Poisoning: ciguatera (DHHS/EPI # 130)</i></p>
CONDUCTING INVESTIGATION	
COLLECT CLINICAL INFORMATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If patient hospitalized for this disease, obtain medical record (admission note, progress note, chest x-ray(s), biopsy report(s), other lab report(s), and discharge summary). • Obtain healthcare provider clinical notes from date(s) of service for this disease/condition. • Look for evidence in the medical record that supports clinical findings described in the case definition.
REVIEW LABORATORY INFORMATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no human clinical laboratory tests for ciguatera toxin. • If there are leftover fish that may be tested, contact environmental health specialist to arrange for embargo of the product and collection for testing. • Consult with the state on call epidemiologist if there is a request to have fish samples tested.
APPLY THE CASE DEFINITION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the case definition to determine if the clinical and laboratory findings meet the case definition criteria.
IMPLEMENTING CONTROL MEASURES	
ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY SOURCE OF EXPOSURE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review clinical records for potential source(s) of exposure. • Interview patient to obtain additional information about fish consumed in the 24 hours prior to symptom onset.

<p>IMPLEMENT CONTROL MEASURES TO PREVENT DISEASE AND ADDITIONAL EXPOSURES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If fish are identified, the location of purchase or consumption should be contacted by environmental health specialist immediately to alert them of the potential contamination of fish with ciguatera toxin. Environmental health specialist should consult with the CD Branch to discuss embargo of specific fish in a particular location to prevent others from being exposed. Large predatory reef fish are the typical vehicle for this toxin.
<p>REPORTING INVESTIGATION</p>	
<p>REPORT TO NC COMMUNICABLE DISEASE BRANCH (CD)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enter Part 1 and Part 2 Communicable Disease Reports into NC EDSS as a new event, or update the existing event if already entered. • Assign event to State Disease Registrar when case investigation complete.
<p>CASE FINDING</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the course of the investigation, interview other exposed individuals for symptoms of illness. • Refer symptomatic individuals to healthcare provider for evaluation.
<p>SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS</p>	
<p>STATE LABORATORY OF PUBLIC HEALTH (SLPH) TESTING</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not applicable.
<p>PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE (PHPR)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ciguatera toxin is not a recognized risk for bioterrorism agent.
<p>PERSONAL PROTECTIVE MEASURES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not generally required with this toxin.
<p>RISK COMMUNICATION</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider using risk communication tools conservatively if this is a low profile, naturally-occurring case. • Outbreaks of even naturally-occurring cases will need NC HAN alerts, EPI-X reports, MD alerts, and probably a press release. • NC DHHS Public Information Office (919) 733-9190 is available to assist local health departments as needed.