

LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT DISEASE INVESTIGATION STEPS

NC REPORTABLE DISEASE/CONDITION		INFECTIOUS AGENT (S)
FOODBORNE POISONING		<i>Scombroid fish poisoning (histamine 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: Scrombroid Fish in the CD Manual. • Study APHA <i>Control of Communicable Diseases Manual</i>, 19th ed., pp 246 - 247. • Print and review reporting forms: <i>Part 1: Confidential Disease Report (DHHS 2124)</i> <i>Part 2: Foodborne Poisoning: Scombroid Fish (DHHS/EPI #132)</i> 	
CONDUCTING INVESTIGATION		
COLLECT CLINICAL INFORMATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If patient hospitalized for this disease, obtain medical record (admission note, progress note, 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"> • No human clinical laboratory tests for this illness. • If leftover fish or suspect fish is available, contact the CD Branch to arrange for histamine testing of the fish. 	
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 and interview patient for potential source(s) of exposure. • Fish consumed within 24 hours of onset most likely source. 	
IMPLEMENT CONTROL MEASURES TO PREVENT DISEASE AND ADDITIONAL EXPOSURES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dispatch environmental health specialist to restaurant or fish market to embargo suspect fish, if applicable. 	

REPORTING INVESTIGATION	
REPORT TO NC COMMUNICABLE DISEASE BRANCH (CD)	<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.
CASE FINDING	<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.
SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS	
STATE LABORATORY OF PUBLIC HEALTH (SLPH) TESTING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not generally applicable.
PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE (PHPR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not a bioterrorism agent.
PERSONAL PROTECTIVE MEASURES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not applicable.
RISK COMMUNICATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider using risk communication tools conservatively if this is a low profile, naturally-occurring case. • NC DHHS Public Information Office (919) 733-9190 is available to assist local health departments as needed.