

Case Definition of Possible, Probable or Confirmed Case of Fluoroacetate (1080) Poisoning

17 March 2015

***Possible* fluoroacetate poisoning**

Previously well child or adult with rapid onset of unexplained serious illness (or death) with history of all four criteria below

AND

known consumption of infant or other formula within four hours of illness (or death)*

- | | | | | |
|----|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. | Abdominal pain+/-vomiting | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> N/A |
| 2. | Agitation and apprehension (adult) OR
Irritability and inconsolable crying (child) | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> N/A |
| 3. | Rapid shallow breathing | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> N/A |
| 4. | Reduced level of consciousness | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> N/A |

***Probable* fluoroacetate poisoning**

Signs and symptoms of possible case

AND

- | | | | | |
|----|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 5. | Metabolic acidosis with elevated lactate | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> N/A |
| 6. | No other diagnosis | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> N/A |

***Confirmed* fluoroacetate poisoning**

Signs and symptoms of probable case

AND

- | | | | | |
|----|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 7. | Urine testing confirms presence of 1080** | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> N/A |
| 8. | 1080 isolated in product consumed | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> N/A |

Notes:

*a SUDI or sudden adult death may not show symptoms if not closely observed

**because the half-life of fluoroacetate is unknown in humans, a negative result from urine testing is not sufficient to exclude fluoroacetate poisoning, refer to *Suspected 1080 (Fluoroacetate) Ingestion from Contaminated Infant Formula or Other Formula: Guidance for secondary care (emergency departments and acute paediatric services)* for the protocol for sending urine specimens for analysis.

Definition of Possible, Probable or Confirmed Case of Fluoroacetate (1080) Poisoning

Master-20150317 1080 Definition of Fluoroacetate Poisoning version 2

Possible fluoroacetate poisoning

- Clinicians are reminded that section 74 of the Health Act 1956 requires medical practitioners to **notify medical officers of health** of cases of listed notifiable diseases, in particular acute gastroenteritis and poisoning arising from chemical contamination of the environment. A notification requirement is also mandated under section 143 of the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 requiring hospitals and medical practitioners to notify hazardous substances injuries to medical officers of health.
- Medical practitioners are asked to urgently notify their medical officer of health of possible, probable or confirmed cases of fluoroacetate (1080) poisoning by phone, fax, email or via the Hazardous Substances Disease and Injury Reporting Tool (HSDIRT) included in bestpractice decision support (BPAC), My Practice and Profile for Windows patient management systems (<https://www.bestpractice.org.nz>).
- Medical officers of health are then asked to urgently inform the Ministry of Health of suspected or confirmed cases.



HP 6166