



Health Care Provider Checklist: Diagnosis and Treatment of Botulism

Diagnosis

- Establish the presence of **signs and symptoms** consistent with botulism:
 - recent (1-10 days) consumption of traditionally prepared Alaska Native foods (seal, whale, salmon, beaver tail or paw, seal oil, etc.) or home canned foods (tomatoes, green beans)
 - neurological: dry mouth, dysphagia, diplopia, blurry vision, dilated or unreactive pupils
 - gastrointestinal/urinary: abdominal pain, diarrhea, intestinal ileus, nausea, vomiting or urinary retention
 - muscular: dyspnea, fatigue, respiratory muscle paralysis, symmetrical skeletal weakness

(See: *Botulism in Alaska*. 2017. <http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/id/siteassets/Pages/botulism/monograph.pdf>)

Report and obtain antitoxin

- Call the Alaska Section of Epidemiology (SOE) and report** any suspect botulism cases immediately:
 - **907-269-8000**, Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.
 - **1-800-478-0084**, after hours to speak to the on-call nurse or physician.
- Alert the hospital pharmacy to obtain and release antitoxin for patient use.

REQUIRED specimens

Before administration of antitoxin, collect blood!

- 20 mls of blood (red top/serum separator, spin, do NOT aliquot), note collection time!**
- 20 mls of emesis** or gastric aspirates (prefer before antitoxin)



Think 20-20-10 before antitoxin!

- 10-50 grams of stool** (can be collected at any time)
- Collect **suspected food** if available, send to lab.
- Refrigerate samples**, not frozen.

Antitoxin Administration

- Closely monitor patient for any signs or symptoms of anaphylaxis, note time antitoxin was initiated.**
Administer BAT[®] according to insert, <http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/id/SiteAssets/Pages/Botulism/BATPacket.pdf>
- Your Pharmacist** will need to complete form and fax to 907-269-0472 to replenish your BAT[®] supply.

Specimen shipping information

- Send specimens: ATTN: **Special Pathogens**, Alaska State Public Health Laboratory (ASPHL), 5455 Dr MLK Jr Ave., Anchorage 99507. Call ASPHL at 907-334-2100 for more information. Seal all oil or liquid food samples with duct tape in original containers, do NOT aliquot. Include *Anchorage Lab Request Form*.
For more info: <http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Labs/Documents/LaboratoryTests.pdf>