

**Listeria Case-Control Study Questionnaire Cover Sheet, 2002**

**Patient Study Identification Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of birth:**                    \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

**Sex:**                                \_\_\_\_\_

**County of residence:**                    \_\_\_\_\_

**Interviewee (circle all that apply):**

**Patient**

**Proxy**

**Spouse / Partner**

**Sibling**

**Parent**

**Child**

**Other, specify:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Based on previous interview**

**Date of interview:**                    \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

**Interviewer initials:**                    \_\_\_\_\_

# LISTERIOSIS QUESTIONNAIRE GUIDELINES

## CALCULATING THE 4 WEEK INTERVAL OF INTEREST:

We will be obtaining food histories over a 4 week interval of interest, see the following instructions for how to calculate this interval. A calendar is attached to the questionnaire (last page). Start and end dates for the interval need to be filled in on the calendar and throughout the questionnaire before the interview is conducted.

## PATIENTS WITH LISTERIOSIS:

For all LISTERIOSIS patients EXCEPT MOTHER-NEONATE PAIRS:

**Last day of the 4 week period:** Date of positive *Listeria monocytogenes* culture

**First day of 4 week period:** Count back 4 weeks (28 days) from date of culture.

For MOTHER-NEONATE pairs:

**Last day of the 4 week period:** Date of neonate birth

**First day of 4 week period:** Count back 4 weeks (28 days) from date of birth.

## IMPORTANT NOTE

If the mother in a mother-neonate pair had a positive listeria culture, then the mother is a case and should have the 4 week period based on her date of culture.

Only one interview should be performed for each mother-neonate pair, even if both the mother and the neonate had a positive culture.

## PROCESS FOR INTERVIEWING:

- If case is able to be interviewed, then absolutely interview the case
- If know that there is only a proxy available for a case, then interview the person(s) who knows the most about the case's food history (spouse/partner, cook, sibling, children).
  - Can be multiple proxies, but use one questionnaire form. Try to do the best that you can to get a single answer for each question.
  - If there are multiple proxies, make sure to record the information for each proxy.
- The interviews should be handled over the telephone, unless there are special circumstances that would not permit for phone interview.

## LISTERIOSIS QUESTIONNAIRE GUIDELINES

### REASONS THAT MIGHT BE GIVEN FOR NOT PARTICIPATING AND POSSIBLE RESPONSES:

<b>Reason</b>	<b>Possible Responses</b>
I'm too busy now.	OK, what is the best time to call you back? It is very important for our investigation to get these interviews done as soon as possible, so the earliest time that you have available would be the best for us.
But I feel fine now.	It's great that you feel better now, but a number of other people in this community have been ill with the same <i>Listeria</i> infection. We want to make sure to find the source of this infection before more people get sick.
I already spoke to someone from the health department about this.	To figure out what food item might be related to this infection, we need to ask all the people who got sick all the same questions.
I don't want to talk about this till I (case) gets out of the hospital.	I understand that it must be a very difficult time for you right now. I would not be asking you to answer these questions now unless it was very important. Since people get listeriosis from food, we think that other people are at risk of this infection if the food item is still available. It is urgent that we figure out what this food item is.
I don't want you to use this information for anything later.	We will only use your information to find out what is causing people in this area to get sick right now. All of your information will be kept confidential.
My wife does all the shopping.	Actually that is one of the questions I want to ask. I was hoping to talk with both of you or to have your wife present while we talk, so I can get the best and most accurate information.

# LISTERIOSIS QUESTIONNAIRE GUIDELINES

## POSSIBLE QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

Questions	Possible Responses
How long is this going to take?	The interview should take about 20- 30 minutes.
What are you going to do with my answers?	We will only use your information to find out what is causing people in this area to get sick right now. All of your information will be kept confidential.
Will I find out the results? When? How?	We can give you the phone number here at the Department of Public Health, so that you can call back in a few weeks to find out more about this investigation.
Are you going to keep calling me after this?	If you have already spoken with someone else from the Department of Public Health, then it is unlikely that you will be contacted again about this.

## ADDITIONAL POINTERS ABOUT INTERVIEW:

<b>Page 1 (bottom)</b>	Please try to encourage use of prompts that are referred to on the first page on the questionnaire (calendar, receipts, and credit card statements). Also make sure to refer back to these prompts throughout the interview. These will greatly improve recall, and thus, data quality.																			
<b>Page 2 (top)</b>	Read appropriate box for case either Non Mother-Neonate Pairs or Mother-Neonate Pairs.  Remember that if the mother in a mother-neonate pair had a positive listeria culture, then the mother is a case and should have the 4 week period based on her date of culture.																			
<b>Page 3 (top)</b>	Can respond to Q.9 with either frequency of travel, eg. every day to work, or dates of travel, eg. for a trip or vacation.																			
<b>Page 3 (bottom)</b>	<p><b>Food Frequency Calculator:</b> This is provided as a reference for the interviewer, but not to be read aloud necessarily. This should help you select the most appropriate category based on the information that the case provides. Refer to paragraph on the middle of page 3 for explanation of categories.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Times per week</th> <th>Times in 4 week period</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Never</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Only 1 or 2 times</td> <td>&lt; 1</td> <td>1-2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1 to 2 times a week</td> <td>1-2</td> <td>3-9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3 to 4 times per week</td> <td>3-4</td> <td>10-19</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Almost everyday</td> <td>5-7</td> <td>≥ 20</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Times per week	Times in 4 week period	Never	0	0	Only 1 or 2 times	< 1	1-2	1 to 2 times a week	1-2	3-9	3 to 4 times per week	3-4	10-19	Almost everyday	5-7	≥ 20
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<b>Page 4 (top)</b>	Just to re-iterate, this first food grid is for foods that are eaten in sandwiches bought pre-made or made to order outside the home.
<b>Page 6 Q.11</b>	<p>If person who usually does the grocery shopping is not available for interview, go ahead and complete interview with patient.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">If patient doesn't know anything about store or brand information, then please call back to obtain this information from the person who does the shopping.</p>
<b>Page 7</b>	Deli meats and cheeses that are sliced at the deli counter, but are already wrapped in plastic, should be included under the Deli Items section on page 7.
<b>Page 16 (bottom)</b>	If people start asking if these are the foods that made them sick, then you can re-iterate that we are doing this just in case, but that we haven't figured out what the specific food is yet.
<b>Page 16 (bottom)</b>	Please fill in a contact person from your health department ahead of time. We will be giving regular updates to all involved agencies.
<b>All pages</b>	If you feel as though any information provided by the interviewee is important, but doesn't fit into a space, please write it down and make sure that there are adequate notes for someone else to understand it.

## WHAT TO DO WITH COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRES

You can fax completed questionnaires to us here in Philadelphia (fax: 215.685.6779). We have a dedicated line for this investigation. We are currently designing an Access database for the questionnaire, and are trying to set up a web-based questionnaire for data entry from any site. We will keep you posted about the status of the web-based system.