

Job Aid for Clinicians

How to send information to the health department about a patient under investigation (PUI) for AFM

1

Identify PUI for AFM: A person with onset of acute flaccid limb weakness AND a magnetic resonance image showing a spinal cord lesion in at least some gray matter and spanning one or more vertebral segments (excluding persons with gray matter lesions in the spinal cord resulting from physician diagnosed malignancy, vascular disease, or anatomic abnormalities).

2

Contact your health department when you identify a PUI for AFM. For health department contact information, call the CDC Emergency Operations Center at 770-488-7100.

SPECIMEN COLLECTION

Collect specimens as close to onset of limb weakness as possible and store as directed (see table on reverse side)



CSF



Serum



Stool



NP swab

Work with your health department to coordinate submission of specimens for testing at CDC.

- Specimens should be shipped overnight to arrive at CDC Tuesday through Friday.
- Specimen submission form ([DASH](#)) should be completed for each specimen submitted.

AND

INFORMATION SHARING

Send copies of the following to your health department for sharing with CDC:

- admission and discharge notes
- neurology and infectious disease consult notes
- MRI report
- MRI images
- vaccination history
- laboratory test results



SEND TO

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Contact the North Dakota Department of Health:

- Division of Laboratory Services at 701.328.6272 to arrange specimen shipment
- Division of Disease Control at 701.328.2378 to arrange receipt of health records

3

Health department completes [AFM Patient Summary Form](#), compiles medical records, and sends information to CDC. Patient will be classified by national AFM experts.

4

After expert review, patient classification is given back to health department and relayed to clinician by health department.

Specimens to collect and send to CDC for testing for AFM PUIs

SAMPLE	AMOUNT	TUBE TYPE	PROCESSING	STORAGE	SHIPPING
CSF	1mL (collect at same time or within 24hrs of serum)	Cryovial 	Spun and CSF removed to cryovial	Freeze at -70°C	Ship on dry ice
Serum	≥0.4mL (collect at same time or within 24 hours of CSF)	Tiger/red top 	Spun and serum removed to tiger/red top.	Freeze at -70°C	Ship on dry ice
Stool	≥1 gram (2 samples collected 24hrs apart)	Sterile container 	n/a	Freeze at -20°C*	Ship on dry ice. Rectal swabs should not be sent in place of stool.
Respiratory (NP)/ Oropharyngeal (OP) swab	1ml (minimum amount)	n/a 	Store in viral transport medium	Freeze at -20°C*	Ship on dry ice

*All specimens may be stored at -70°C for ease of shipping.

Coordinate with your health department to send information about PUIs and ship specimens to CDC. For health department contact information, call the CDC Emergency Operations Center at 770-488-7100.