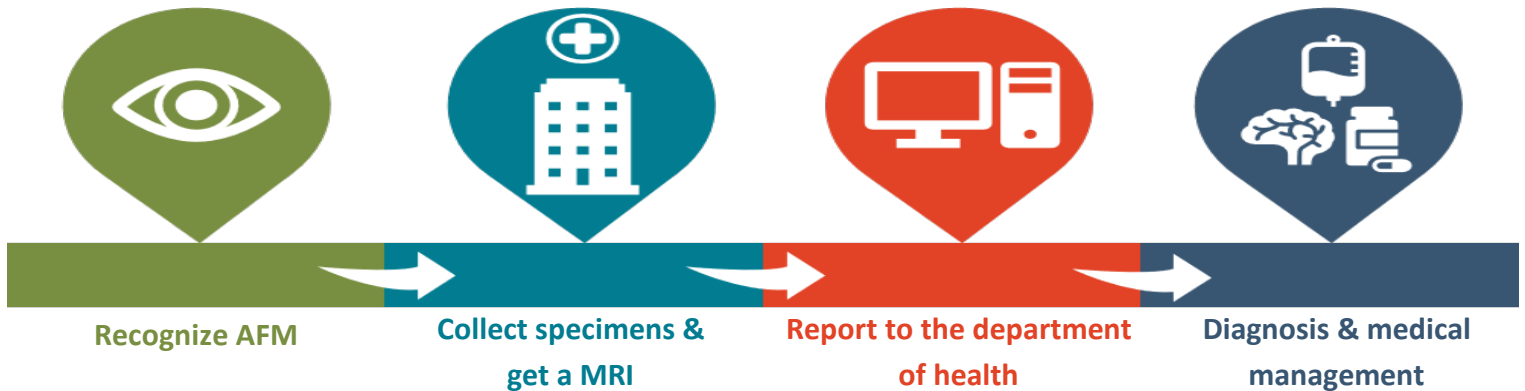


## Provider Guidance



Acute Flaccid Myelitis (AFM) is a rare syndrome characterized by rapid onset of flaccid weakness in one or more limbs with abnormalities of the spinal cord or brain grey matter on magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

### Timing is Key for AFM



#### Recognizing AFM

- AFM tends occur in **late summer or early fall**
- Respiratory symptoms or fever consistent with a viral infection occurs less than a week before onset of limb weakness
- Hospitalize patient immediately upon suspicion of AFM
- **Don't wait for CDC's case classification to diagnosis or treat**

#### Symptoms

- Arm or leg weakness
- Difficulty moving the eyes
- Difficulty with swallowing
- Pain in arms, legs, neck or back
- Loss of muscle tone
- Loss of reflexes
- Facial droop or weakness
- Slurred speech

#### Collect specimens & get a MRI

- Specimens should be collected as early as possible in the course of illness, **preferably on the day of limb weakness onset**
  - Specimens need to be sent to a State Public Health Laboratory, contact your county health department (CHD) to coordinate
  - Order an MRI of the entire spine and brain with and without Contrast
- 3 Tesla scanners are preferred and axial/sagittal images are the most helpful**



Additional information concerning specimen collection can be found in the

[Job Aid for Clinicians](#)

#### Report to health department

Please report suspected cases of AFM to the Communicable Disease Report Card at: <https://redcap.link/vbawncfy>

#### Items that need to be submitted

- MRI report
- MRI images
- [Patient summary form](#)

For confirmed and probable cases, additional clinical information will be requested from the patient's medical record such as admission & discharge notes, neurology & infectious disease consult notes, vaccination record, diagnostic laboratory results, and the EMG report (if done and available).

#### Diagnosis & medical management

**There are no proven ways to treat or prevent AFM**

Providers should expedite neurology and infectious disease consults to discuss management and treatment

#### Long-term follow-up

The state health department is conducting long-term follow-ups on cases to better understand AFM outcomes. It consists of a 9 question survey and medical records. Data will be shared with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Follow-ups will occur at **60 days, 6 months, and 1 year** after limb weakness onset.

The AFM Physician Consult and Support Portal is available to help with patient diagnosis and medical management contact them at

[wearesrna.org/living-with-myelitis/resources/afm-physician-support-portal](https://wearesrna.org/living-with-myelitis/resources/afm-physician-support-portal)