



Immediate actions for the NHS:

Regulation 2(1)(b) of the Health Protection (Notification) Regulations 2010 place a duty on registered medical practitioners (RMPs) to report any suspected infections that present or could present significant harm to human health. This covers reporting of [acute flaccid paralysis and acute flaccid myelitis](#) (AFP/AFM) not explained by a non-infectious cause. In addition, under Schedule 1 of the Health Protection (Notification) Regulations 2010, suspected cases of acute poliomyelitis are notifiable.

Where AFP/AFM cases are not explained by a non-infectious cause, appropriate microbiological testing to exclude polio as a causative agent is an integral component of clinical management and polio surveillance.

acute flaccid paralysis/myelitis is characterised by rapid onset of weakness of an individual's extremities, often including weakness of the muscles of respiration and swallowing, progressing to maximum severity within 10 days. The term 'flaccid' indicates weakness accompanied by hyporeflexia or areflexia in the affected limb(s).

_____ for patients meeting the above case definition:

- i. report the case of AFP/AFM to your [local Health Protection Team by telephone during working hours \(same day/ next day\)](#)
- ii. i

