



Canadian Paediatric Surveillance Program

Survey

Acute flaccid paralysis (AFP)



WHO quality assurance criteria for AFP surveillance

- one AFP case per 100,000 in population less than 15 years of age
- adequate polio virus stool culture in 80% of AFP cases

The Public Health Agency of Canada would like to assess current laboratory stool investigative practices as well as the feasibility and appropriateness of these World Health Organization (WHO) criteria to determine if alternate criteria could be used in Canada where other diagnostic tests are more readily available.

Canada is strongly committed to the WHO global certification of polio eradication. The CPSP acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) study documents progress on this initiative by detecting, investigating and ruling out the possibility of polioviruses, even though most AFP cases are due to Guillain-Barré syndrome or transverse myelitis and NOT to polioviruses.

The ability to meet the WHO criteria is a measure of the quality and sensitivity of the AFP surveillance system, demonstrating that AFP cases are actively sought, detected and reported.

Please take a few moments to answer the following:

1. In the past two years, have you seen any cases of AFP in children less than 15 years of age?

- No If no, please proceed to question 4
Yes If yes, how many cases? _____

2. Did you order stool cultures for polioviruses?

- No If no, please specify reason and proceed to question 4

- Yes If yes, how often? Always Sometimes Never

3. Did the laboratory process the stool cultures for polioviruses as requested?

- No If no, please proceed to question 4
Yes If yes, how often? Always Sometimes Never Unknown

4. For future AFP investigations, within how many days following the onset of paralysis would you consider ordering stool cultures for polioviruses? _____ days

Please return this survey with your monthly reporting form.

Thank you for your participation.

10/2004