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Poliomyelitis, Paralytic  
1997 Case Definition  
Poliomyelitis, Paralytic  
1997 Case Definition  
NOTE:  
A surveillance case definition is a set of uniform criteria used to define a disease for public health surveillance. Surveillance case definitions enable public health officials to classify and count cases consistently across reporting jurisdictions. Surveillance case definitions are not intended to be used by healthcare providers for making a clinical diagnosis or determining how to meet an individual patient’s health needs.  
Clinical Description  
Acute onset of a flaccid paralysis of one or more limbs with decreased or absent tendon reflexes in the affected limbs, without other apparent cause, and without sensory or cognitive loss.  
Case Classification  
Probable  
A case that meets the clinical case definition  
Confirmed  
A case that meets the clinical case definition and in which the patient has a neurologic deficit 60 days after onset of initial symptoms, has died, or has unknown follow-up status  
Comments  
All suspected cases of paralytic poliomyelitis are reviewed by a panel of expert consultants before final classification occurs. Confirmed cases are then further classified based on epidemiologic and laboratory criteria.  
1  
Only confirmed cases are included in Table I in the  
Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)  
. Suspected cases are enumerated in a footnote to the  
MMWR  
table.  
References  
Sutter RW, Brink EW, Cochi SL, et al. A new epidemiologic and laboratory classification system for paralytic poliomyelitis cases. Am J Public Health 1989;79:495-8.  
Related Case Definition(s)  
Poliomyelitis, Paralytic | 2010 Case Definition  
Poliomyelitis, Paralytic | 1990 Case Definition  
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NNDSS receives and shares case data from state, local, and territorial health departments to help public health monitor, control, and prevent serious diseases.  
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