

Animal Bites and Rabies Exposures

A Checklist for Physicians in Los Angeles County

☐ COLLECT ANIMAL INFORMATION from patient.

- Biting animal species, physical description, and general description of how incident occurred.
- Date, location where bite occurred.
- Where is animal now? Every effort should be made to locate and (if it is wild or stray) safely detain the animal at the time of the incident. Bats that had exposure to a sleeping person, a child, or an incapacitated person should **not** be released. Ask the patient to contact local animal control to arrange for quarantine observation or rabies testing of the animal.

☐ REPORT BITE

- In Los Angeles (LA) County, physicians are legally required to report all mammal bites except rodent, squirrel, and rabbit bites. Bites must be reported even if the animal appeared healthy.
 - **Report to Veterinary Public Health:** Tel: (213) 288-7060, Fax: (213) 481-2375, Email: vet@ph.lacounty.gov
 - **Online bite report portal:** www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/vet/biteintro.htm

☐ EVALUATE NEED for Rabies Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP)

- Should Rabies PEP be given?
 - Cat/dog bites that **happened within** LA County might not require PEP even if the cat/dog is a stray animal.
 - If rabies consultation needed: call Acute Communicable Disease Control (ACDC) “Doctor-on-Duty” at Public Health: (213) -240-7941 (if case is based in Los Angeles County).
 - ***As long at the patient is not demonstrating clinical signs of rabies infection, there is no timeframe after a rabies exposure where it is too late to administer rabies PEP.***

☐ IF NEEDED, ADMINISTER Rabies PEP

- Rabies PEP is a medical “urgency” not emergency.
- See national guidelines at: <https://www.cdc.gov/acip-recs/hcp/vaccine-specific/rabies.html>
- Physicians caring for insured patients in LA County should **NOT** refer the case to public health for treatment. Any physician can order, quickly receive, and administer rabies biologicals to their patients themselves.
- Emergency Departments often have rabies biologicals on hand and can provide rabies PEP, however it is preferable for the patient to receive subsequent vaccine doses in the series elsewhere, to reduce wait times, expense and stress for the patient, as well as to reduce ED caseload.
- Providers may ask their patients to start the series in a hospital emergency department (such as first vaccination and HRIG) while they order the remaining vaccinations for the patient.
- Please actively assist your patient in ensuring they can access and complete the full rabies PEP series. Patients often face difficulty finding access to care on their own. Rabies vaccine and human rabies immune globulin (HRIG) is available to order for your patient (see below).



Requesting Rabies Vaccine and HRIG for Your Patient

☐ Check if the patient was pre-immunized for rabies before the rabies exposure.

- Ask the patient if they have ever received rabies vaccines in the past to determine if they are pre-immunized. Pre-immunized patients who have fulfilled all ACIP requirements to be considered pre-immunized typically only require 2 rabies vaccinations for rabies post-exposure prophylaxis.
- [ACIP Guidance for rabies Pre-vaccination](#)
- Pre-immunized includes:
 - Completed full series of rabies post-exposure in the past.
 - Completed pre-vaccination series with 3 rabies vaccines [day 0, 7, and anytime between day 28 to 3 years].
 - Received 2 rabies vaccines on [days 0, 7] within the last 3 years.
 - Received 2 rabies vaccines on [days 0, 7] and received a rabies titer of \geq to 0.5IU/ml.

Rabies PEP for patients who are NOT pre-immunized for rabies:

- ☐ Rabies vaccinations (available in 1ml individual doses).
- ☐ The first day of rabies PEP is called Day 0.
 - Give intramuscularly on Days 0, 3, 7, 14 in the **deltoid muscle**. In children the anterolateral aspect of the thigh is acceptable as well.
 - Immunosuppressed patients typically receive a 5th rabies vaccine at day 28.
 - **NEVER give rabies vaccine in the gluteal muscles.**
- ☐ Human rabies immune globulin (HRIG).
 - 1 dose only - 20 IU/kg given IM.
 - Two brands available in the USA.
 - HyperRab® - available in 1ml, 3 ml, or 5 ml vials- **300** IU/ml concentration *Note- this brand is double to concentration.
 - Kedrab® - available in 2ml or 10 ml vials, **150** IU/ml concentration.
 - Typically given on Day 0 but must be given within the first week of rabies vaccine series (i.e. on Day 7 or earlier).
 - Infiltrate as much as possible in and around bite wound(s), with remainder given intramuscularly **at site distant from location where rabies vaccine was given. Do not give in the gluteal muscle unless the wound is in the gluteal muscle.** If there is no visible bite wound (i.e. bat encounter to a sleeping person, a child, or an incapacitated person) give the entire dose intramuscularly.

Rabies PEP for patients who ARE pre-immunized for rabies:

If pre-immunized: Two doses of rabies vaccine only, on Day 0 and Day 3, in deltoid muscle.

Ordering Rabies Vaccine:

Bavarian Nordic (RabAvert® – PCECV)
<https://rabavert.com/>

For Post-Exposure Prophylaxis and Pre-exposure Prophylaxis:
Available for ordering through Bavarian Nordic authorized wholesaler or distributor only.

Ordering:
Vaccine can be ordered through Bavarian Nordic authorized wholesaler or distributor only. Please see <https://rabavert.com/> or <https://www.bnvaccines.com/> information and a list of authorized wholesalers.

Sanofi-Pasteur (Imovax® -HDCV) 1-800-822-2463
www.vaccineshoppe.com; Item# 252-51

For Post-Exposure Prophylaxis: Available for ordering without restrictions. Often able to receive order rapidly.

Pre-exposure Prophylaxis: Available for ordering without restrictions.

Ordering:
From Sanofi: Item: 252-51. Vaccine can be ordered and received overnight if clinic has account already set up, is in a FedEx 1-day zone and ordered before 4:30pm EST. \$20 fee for overnight shipping for clinics in FedEx 2-day zone. No minimum order. Account set-up takes up to 48 hours if not done online. No charge to set up or maintain account in advance. As of Apr 2022, average wholesale price is \$371.65 but can vary based on contract pricing.
From Distributors: Vaccines may be available through biologicals distributors. Ask your distributors in advance. Ask if minimum order, speed of delivery, cost.

Ordering Human Rabies Immune Globulin (HRIG):

Grifols Therapeutics
(HyperRab®) 1-888-474-3657
www.grifolsusa.com

Dose: 20 iu/kg
How supplied: 1ml, 3ml, and 5ml vials 300 IU/ml
*Note- this brand is double the concentration

Ordering:
HyperRab® is sold primarily through distributors and wholesalers. Minimum amount of order, delivery and cost depends on distributor.

Kedrion Biopharma (KEDRAB®) 1-855-353-7466
US_CustomerService@kedrion.com, <https://kedrab.com/>

Dose: 20 iu/kg
How supplied: 2ml or 10ml vials, 150 IU/ml

Ordering:
From Kedrion: KEDRAB® is available through distributors as well as directly from Kedrion Biopharma. Minimum amount of order, delivery, and cost depends on distributor.

DPH does not promote or endorse any product.



Rabies Post-Exposure Prophylaxis: Administration Tips for Medical Providers

Reminder: Ask where the biting animal currently is

- If a biting domestic animal (dog, cat, livestock) can be located, then rabies quarantine or rabies testing can be done, and the bite victim may not need rabies PEP.
- Wild animals who are rabies vectors (bats, coyotes, skunks, opossums, raccoons, other large carnivores) are assumed to be positive for rabies unless tested and rabies PEP is indicated unless the wild mammal tests negative.
- Rabies testing is a post-mortem test in animals.

HRIG Administration:

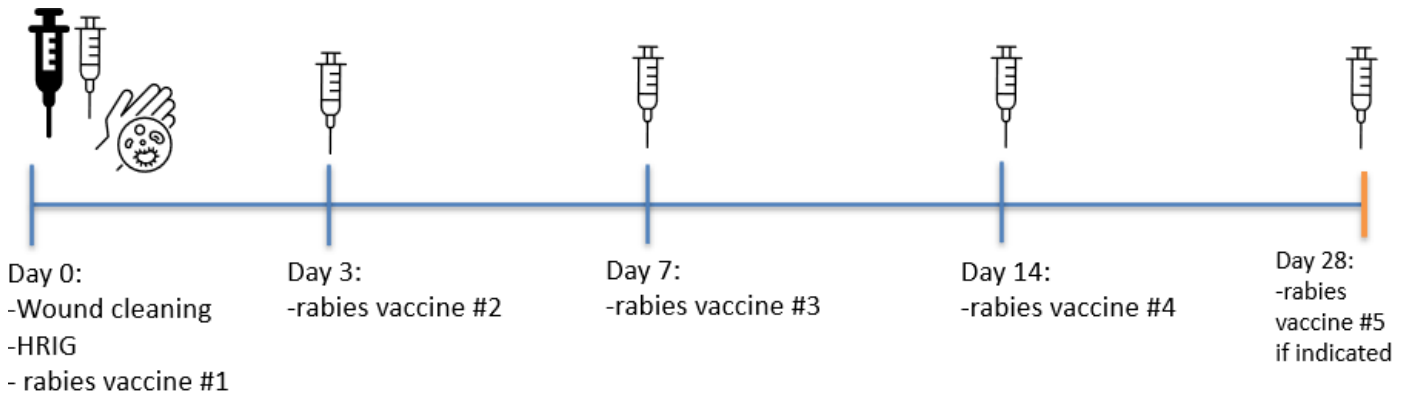
1. Establish if HRIG is indicated: Ask bite victims if they have ever been pre-vaccinated for rabies or received rabies post-exposure prophylaxis in the past.
 - HRIG is indicated for all rabies PEP cases unless a person is considered pre-vaccinated for rabies OR it is outside the 7-day window of when a person received the first rabies vaccine in the PEP series.
2. **Do not** mix HRIG and rabies vaccine into the same syringe.
3. **Do not** administer HRIG and rabies vaccine into the same muscle/anatomic site. Subsequent doses of rabies vaccine can be given in the same muscle where the HRIG was given previously.
4. If there is a bite wound, even if it is in a difficult location, infuse the wound with as much HRIG as possible.
5. Give HRIG even when there is no obvious wound.
6. **Avoid** administering HRIG into the gluteal muscles unless the bite wound is located on the gluteal muscles to prevent possible sciatic nerve injury. Both manufacture labels for KEDRAB® and HyperRAB® specifically state not to administer in the gluteal muscle unless the bite wound is present there.
7. **Do not** give more than the recommend dose of HRIG.
8. If your facility does not have HRIG or enough HRIG on Day 0, HRIG can be and should be given within 7 days of when the first rabies vaccine was administered.

Rabies Vaccine Administration:

9. **NEVER** give rabies vaccine into the gluteal muscle. Any dose given in the gluteal muscles must be repeated.
10. In adults, the only appropriate injection site for rabies vaccine is the deltoid muscle. In children, the anterolateral aspect of the thigh is also acceptable.



Rabies PEP summary in non-pre-vaccinated individuals:



If HRIG not administered on Day 0, administer anytime within and including 7 days of when rabies vaccine dose #1 was given.

ANIMAL BITES & RABIES RISK

Recommendations for Los Angeles County*

When the biting animal is available for evaluation by quarantine or testing, the results may determine if the animal is rabid and the bite victim needs Rabies Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP). The species of the animal and its health may also help determine rabies risk.



HIGH RISK OF RABIES

Bats / Abnormally Acting Wildlife / Foreign Animals

REPORT BITE TO VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH IMMEDIATELY.

Rabies Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) is FREQUENTLY indicated.



MODERATE RISK OF RABIES

Sick Local Dogs or Cats / Normally Acting Non-Bat Wildlife

(such as skunks, foxes, raccoons, coyotes, opossums)

Report bite to Veterinary Public Health.

PEP is SOMETIMES indicated.



LOW RISK OF RABIES

Healthy Local Dogs or Cats (including local stray dogs and cats) / Livestock / Horses

Report bite to Veterinary Public Health.

PEP is RARELY indicated.



NOT REPORTABLE

Squirrels / Rabbits / Small Rodents (rats, mice) / Birds / Snakes

Bites from these animals are not reportable because they do not spread rabies.

PEP is NOT indicated.

REPORTING

Email (preferred): vet@ph.lacounty.gov or fax: (213) 481-2375. Download form at:

<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/vet/docs/Forms/BiteReportMed.pdf> Online: www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/vet/biteintro.htm

Phone: (213) 288-7060 or (877) 747-2243 (Vet Public Health/M-F, 8am-5pm)

- Always report details about the biting animal, including current location if known.
- If the biting animal is available, quarantine/testing it for rabies will help determine if the victim needs treatment.
- Contact Animal Control about injured, sick or loose animals: www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/vet/AnimalControlList.htm

CONSULTATIONS

Consultation regarding rabies risk

Mon-Fri: 8am-5pm

Veterinary Public Health: (213) 288-7060 or (877) 747-2243 or vet@ph.lacounty.gov

Ask to speak to the Veterinarian On-Duty.

Consultation on individual patient care decisions

Mon-Fri: 8am-5pm. Consultations also available after-hours for emergencies.

Acute Communicable Disease Control: (213) 240-7941

Ask to speak to the Physician On-Duty

*The rabies risk in Los Angeles County may shift over time. Other counties may have different rabies risks.

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