

MEDICAL HEALTH OFFICERS UPDATE – JULY 23, 2020

Rabies Post Exposure Prophylaxis (RPEP) in the Emergency Department

ONLY the MHO can authorize the release of rabies immune globulin (Rablg) and vaccine for post exposure prophylaxis. An MHO can also be consulted for any question related to RPEP. The on-call MHO phone number is **1-866-457-5648**.

See the [BCCDC Biological Products, Immune globulins, and Rabies Vaccines](#) for detailed product information. The following steps are a summary. Please refer to [BCCDC Guidelines for Management of Rabies Exposure](#) and [IH Standardized Process and Procedure - Access to RPEP in EDs](#) for greater detail.

1. Assess Wound: Wound or exposed area should be cleaned and flushed thoroughly as per BCCDC Guideline for Management of Rabies Exposure.

2. Administer Rablg: If MHO recommends infiltration, provide the amount of Rablg the MHO has recommended and **do not** exceed the maximum dose based on patient weight.

| Calculating Rabies Immune Globulin Dosage: | |
|--|---|
| IMOGAM® : $\frac{[20 \text{ (IU/kg)} \times \text{Weight (kg)}]}{150 \text{ IU/mL}}$ | HyperRAB®: $\frac{[20 \text{ (IU/kg)} \times \text{Weight (kg)}]}{300 \text{ IU/mL}}$ |

- Infiltrate as much Rablg as possible deep into the wound(s) or exposed area and its surrounding tissue.
- Once a site has been infiltrated as much as anatomically feasible, inject remaining Rablg IM into the ventrogluteal site (> 7 months of age) or in the anterolateral thigh, (all ages). For maximum dose volume per site, see [BCCDC Immune Globulin Preparations](#).
- Do not use the deltoid for IM Rablg administration. Reserve both deltoid sites for administration of rabies vaccine.

Note: If MHO has not recommended infiltration of wound/site: administer maximum volume IM in the appropriate muscle as above.

3. Administer Rabies Vaccine: Interior Health MHOs are currently recommending **intramuscular (IM)** administration of Rabies vaccine. See [IH Practice Bulletin -Clinical Update, RPEP: Administration Route of Rabies Vaccine, Feb 2020](#)

- 1.0 mL of vaccine should be administered IM into the deltoid of adults and children ≥ 12 months of age and into the anterolateral thigh muscle for infants < 12 months of age.
- The remaining rabies IM vaccine series will be administered by Public Health (See Documentation & Referral)

4. Administer Tetanus Diphtheria (Td) Vaccine (if required): Tetanus booster and/or Tetanus immunoglobulin may be required. Please review Tetanus vaccination history with the patient. See [BCCDC Tetanus Prophylaxis in Wound Management](#)

5. Documentation & Referral: Complete [Rabies Post-Exposure Prophylaxis \(RPEP\) ED/PH Reporting Form](#) and fax to local Public Health to ensure continuity of RPEP care.

Previous MHO Updates and Alerts available: <https://www.interiorhealth.ca/AboutUs/Leadership/MHO/Pages/MHOUpdates.aspx>

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