



**MEDICAL HEALTH OFFICERS UPDATE – May 17, 2021**

**Rabies Post Exposure Prophylaxis (RPEP) in the Emergency Department**

ONLY the MHO can authorize the release of rabies immune globulin (RabIg) 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 RabIg:** If MHO recommends infiltration, provide the amount of RabIg the MHO has recommended and **do not** exceed the maximum dose based on patient weight.

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

- Infiltrate as much RabIg 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 RabIg into the ventrogluteal site (> 7 months of age) or in the anterolateral thigh (all ages).
- Do not use the deltoid for RabIg administration. Reserve both deltoid sites for administration of rabies vaccine.
- For maximum dose volume per site see BCCDC [Immune Globulin Preparations](#).

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

- 3. Administer Rabies Vaccine:** Interior Health MHOs are currently recommending **intramuscular (IM)** administration of Rabies vaccine.
  - 1.0 mL of vaccine should be administered into the deltoid of adults and children  $\geq 12$  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 immunoglobulin may be required. Please review tetanus vaccination history with the patient.

History of tetanus Immunization	Clean, minor wounds		Bites or dirty wounds	
	Td booster	Tlg	Td booster	Tlg
Uncertain or incomplete	Yes + consult MHO	No	Yes	Yes + consult MHO
Complete, less than 5 years since last dose	No	No	No	No
Complete, More than 5 but less than 10 years since last dose	No	No	Yes	No
Complete, more than 10 years since last dose	Yes	No	Yes	No

- 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.