Animal Bites and Rabies Exposures – A Checklist for Private Practice Physicians

NOTE: If the patient is insured, rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (rabies PEP) is the responsibility of the doctor caring for the patient. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH) provides rabies post-exposure treatment only for uninsured patients. Patients needing assistance with paying for rabies PEP may also seek help through two national programs at: www.cdc.gov/rabies/medical_care/programs.html

☐ COLLECT ANIMAL INFORMATION from patient
  o Biting animal’s behavior, animal species and general description of animal.
  o Date, location where bite occurred.
  o Where is animal now? Ask bite victim to clarify. Animal will need to be tested or quarantined.
  o Rodent, squirrel, and rabbit bites are not reportable

☐ REPORT BITE
  o Report to Veterinary Public Health and Rabies Control:
    o Tel: (877) 747-2243 or (213) 989-7060, Fax (213) 481-2375
    o Online Reporting: www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/vet/biteintro.htm
  o All animal bites are legally reportable except rodent, squirrel, and rabbit bites. Bites must be reported even if the animal appeared healthy.

☐ EVALUATE NEED for Rabies Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP)
  o Should Rabies PEP be given?
    ▪ See national guidelines at: www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr57e507.pdf
    ▪ See update about dropping fifth vaccine dose from standard protocol at: www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5902a1.htm
    ▪ Cat/dog bites that happened within LA County might not require PEP.
    ▪ Ask our veterinarians about rabies data in local animals: (213) 989-7060 or see www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/vet
    ▪ If needed, physician can call “Doctor On Duty” at Public Health – Acute Communicable Disease Control (ACDC) for consultation: (213) 240-7941 (if case is based in Los Angeles County).

☐ IF NEEDED, ADMINISTER Rabies PEP
  o Medical “urgency” not emergency
  o Generally covered by insurance.
  o County provides to patient only if UNINSURED
  o First day you begin rabies PEP is called Day 0.
  o Rabies vaccine
    • Give intramuscularly on days 0, 3, 7, 14. Deltoid muscle is common choice. Do not give in the gluteal muscles.
    • Note: As of fall 2009 – 5th vaccine dose at day 28 dropped from standard ACIP recommendations. Vaccine labels still describe 5-dose protocol.
    • Immunosuppressed patients still need to receive 5th rabies vaccines at day 28.
    • Available in 1 ml individual doses.
  o Human anti-rabies immunoglobulin (HRIG).
    • Give 1 dose only - 20 iu/kg
    • Available in 2 or 10 ml vials, 150 iu/ml
    • Given on Day 0 only - Administer as much as possible in and around bite wound, with remainder given intramuscularly at site distant from location where rabies vaccine was given.
    • If HRIG is delayed, must give within 7 days of first rabies vaccine dose.
  o Emergency Departments often have rabies biologicals on hand.
  o ANY doctor can order and administer rabies biologicals. May receive shipment quickly.
## Ordering Rabies Vaccine

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GlaxoSmithKline (RabAvert® – PCECV)</th>
<th>Sanofi-Pasteur (Imovax® -HDCV)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-800-244-7668</td>
<td>1-800-822-2463</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.GSKdirect.com">www.GSKdirect.com</a></td>
<td><a href="http://www.vaccineshoppe.com">www.vaccineshoppe.com</a></td>
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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 GSK:** Create an account on website www.GSKdirect.com. Account takes 2-10 days to activate. Obtain customer number. Place order. Vaccine can be ordered and received overnight if ordered by 3:00pm EST Mon-Thurs. No minimum order, but possible surcharge. No charge to set up or maintain account in advance. As of February 2019 cost was $337.00 per vaccine.

**From Distributors:** Vaccines may be available through biologicals distributors. Ask your distributors in advance. Ask if minimum order, speed of delivery, cost.

*Stocked in DPH Pharmacy*  
*NOT usually stocked in DPH Pharmacy*

## Ordering Human Rabies Immune Globulin (HRIG)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grifols Therapeutics (HyperRabTM S/D)</th>
<th>Sanofi-Pasteur (Imogam® -Rabies HT)</th>
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<tr>
<td>1-888-474-3657</td>
<td>1-800-822-2463</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.grifolsusa.com">www.grifolsusa.com</a></td>
<td><a href="http://www.vaccineshoppe.com">www.vaccineshoppe.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Dose:** 20 iu/kg  
**How supplied:** 2ml or 10ml vials, 150 iu/ml

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

*Stocked in DPH Pharmacy*  
*NOT usually stocked in DPH Pharmacy*