

# 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](http://www.cdc.gov/rabies/medical_care/programs.html)

- COLLECT ANIMAL INFORMATION from patient
  - Biting animal's behavior, animal species and general description of animal.
  - Date, location where bite occurred.
  - Where is animal now? Ask bite victim to clarify. Animal will need to be tested or quarantined.
  - Rodent, squirrel, and rabbit bites are not reportable
- REPORT BITE
  - Report to Veterinary Public Health and Rabies Control:
    - Tel: (877) 747-2243 or (213) 989-7060, Fax (213) 481-2375
    - Online Reporting: [www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/vet/biteintro.htm](http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/vet/biteintro.htm)
    - 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)
  - Should Rabies PEP be given?
    - See national guidelines at: [www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr57e507.pdf](http://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](http://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](http://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
  - Medical “urgency” not emergency
  - Generally covered by insurance.
  - County provides to patient only if UNINSURED
  - First day you begin rabies PEP is called Day 0.
  - 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 – 5<sup>th</sup> vaccine dose at day 28 dropped from standard ACIP recommendations. Vaccine labels still describe 5-dose protocol.
    - Immunosuppressed patients still need to receive 5<sup>th</sup> rabies vaccines at day 28.
    - Available in 1 ml individual doses.
  - 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.
  - Emergency Departments often have rabies biologicals on hand.
  - ANY doctor can order and administer rabies biologicals. May receive shipment quickly.



## Ordering Rabies Vaccine

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| <p><b>GlaxoSmithKline (RabAvert® – PCECV)</b><br/> <b>1-800-244-7668</b><br/> <a href="http://www.GSKdirect.com">www.GSKdirect.com</a></p>  | <p><b>Sanofi-Pasteur (Imovax® -HDCV)</b><br/> <b>1-800-822-2463</b><br/> <a href="http://www.vaccineshoppe.com">www.vaccineshoppe.com</a></p>   |
| <p><u>For Post-Exposure Prophylaxis:</u> Available for ordering without restrictions. Often able to receive order rapidly.</p> <p><u>Pre-exposure Prophylaxis:</u> Available for ordering without restrictions.</p>   | <p><u>For Post-Exposure Prophylaxis:</u> : Available for ordering without restrictions. Often able to receive order rapidly.</p> <p><u>Pre-exposure Prophylaxis:</u> Available for ordering without restrictions.</p>   |
| <p><u>Ordering:</u><br/> <u>From GSK:</u> Create an account on website <a href="http://www.GSKdirect.com">www.GSKdirect.com</a>. 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.<br/> <u>From Distributors:</u> Vaccines may be available through biologicals distributors. Ask your distributors in advance. Ask if minimum order, speed of delivery, cost.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Stocked in DPH Pharmacy</i></p> | <p><u>Ordering:</u><br/> <u>From Sanofi:</u> Vaccine can be ordered and received overnight if clinic has account already set up and ordered before 6:00pm EST. 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 July 2019 cost was \$356.35 per vaccine.<br/> <u>From Distributors:</u> Vaccines may be available through biologicals distributors. Ask your distributors in advance. Ask if minimum order, speed of delivery, cost.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>NOT usually stocked in DPH Pharmacy</i></p> |

## Ordering Human Rabies Immune Globulin (HRIG)

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| <p><b>Grifols Therapeutics (HyperRab™ S/D)</b><br/> <b>1-888-474-3657</b><br/> <a href="http://www.grifolsusa.com">www.grifolsusa.com</a></p>  | <p><b>Sanofi-Pasteur (Imogam® -Rabies HT)</b><br/> <b>1-800-822-2463</b><br/> <a href="http://www.vaccineshoppe.com">www.vaccineshoppe.com</a></p>  |
| <p>Dose: 20 iu/kg<br/> How supplied: 2ml or 10ml vials, 150 iu/ml</p>  | <p>Dose: 20 iu/kg<br/> How supplied: 2ml vials, 150 iu/ml.</p>  |
| <p><u>Ordering:</u><br/> HyperRab™ S/D is sold primarily through distributors and wholesalers. Minimum amount of order, delivery, and cost depends on distributor.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Stocked in DPH Pharmacy</i></p> | <p><u>Ordering:</u><br/> <u>From Sanofi:</u> Immune globulin can be ordered and received overnight if ordered before 6:00pm EST. No minimum. Must set up an account (adds 48 hour delay, faster if account set up online). No charge to set up or maintain account in advance. As of April 2017 cost was \$758.67 per 2 ml vial.<br/> <u>From Distributors:</u> Imogam is not available through distributors.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>NOT usually stocked in DPH Pharmacy</i></p> |

