

# RABIES



## Postexposure Prophylaxis (PEP)

From the 2010 and 2022 Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) Recommendations

### What is rabies PEP?

Rabies PEP includes:

- Wound cleaning
- Rabies immune globulin (RIG) \*
- A series of rabies vaccinations

*\*Persons who have had rabies vaccine within the past 3 years **OR** have had a rabies booster or titer within the ACIP-recommended interval do not need RIG for PEP*

### When is it indicated?

PEP should be given to anyone with suspected exposure to the rabies virus. Exposure usually occurs via bites from wildlife such as bats and skunks, but dogs, cats, and other mammals can also transmit the virus. Call Contra Costa Public Health at 925-313-6740 if you would like help in assessing exposure risk or have an uninsured patient needing rabies PEP.

### How and when should rabies PEP biologics be administered?

<p><b>Not previously vaccinated OR rabies PrEP status unknown</b></p>	<p>RIG (20 IU/kg)</p> <p>Vaccine (1 mL)</p>	<p>On Day 0, infiltrate wounds with full dose, if possible, and inject remaining volume IM in a site distant from vaccine.</p> <p>Inject IM, in deltoid, on Day 0, 3, 7, and 14**.</p>
<p><i>**Immunocompromised persons should receive five doses of vaccine (1 dose of vaccine on Day 0, 3, 7, 14, and 28).</i></p>		
<p><b>PrEP in past 3 years OR a booster or titer within ACIP-recommended interval</b></p>	<p>RIG (20 IU/kg)</p> <p>Vaccine (1 mL)</p>	<p>Do not administer RIG.</p> <p>Inject vaccine IM in deltoid on Day 0 and 3.</p>

### Important rabies PEP tips

#### Do

- Infiltrate all wounds with RIG, unless patient was previously vaccinated.
- Put as much of the RIG as anatomically feasible at the site of the wound(s).
- Inject vaccine in deltoid (or thigh in children).
- Report ALL animal bites to Contra Costa Animal Services at 925-608-8400.
- Call Contra Costa Public Health at 925-313-6740 with rabies PEP questions or if caring for an uninsured patient.

#### Do Not

- Do not inject any rabies biologic in the gluteus (unless bite wound is located there).
- Do not give RIG to a previous recipient of PEP or a person who is still protected by pre-exposure vaccination/prophylaxis (PrEP).
- Do not inject RIG and vaccine at the same site, in the same limb, or using the same syringe.
- Do not give more than the recommended dose of RIG.