



APPENDIX E: Instructions for the Administration of Rabies Vaccine and Rabies Immune Globulin

Date: _____ (yyyy/mm/dd)

Dear Doctor/Nurse:

Re: _____ , dob ____/____/____
(yyyy/mm/dd)

The following outlines the protocol for rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (RPEP). RPEP consists of a series of rabies vaccine and one dose of rabies immune globulin. Additional information can be found in the package inserts for these products. **Please note that these products must remain refrigerated (between 2°- 8°C) at all times and should only be handled and stored where this can be assured.** If this temperature has not been maintained, please contact the local health unit.

RABIES IMMUNE GLOBULIN (Rablg) - given if not previously immunized against rabies:

Series: A single dose of Rablg is given as soon as possible after exposure (day 0) for those who have not been previously immunized against rabies.

Dose: The dose of rabies immune globulin is calculated based on weight in kilograms. The calculated volume should not be exceeded because of possible interference with active antibody production.

The dose of Rablg (in ml) is calculated as:
$$\frac{[20 \text{ (IU/kg)} \times \text{Weight (kg)}]}{150 \text{ IU/ml}}$$

We have calculated Rablg dose for this client to be _____ml, using _____kg as the weight. You have been shipped _____ vials of Rablg (each vial contains 2 ml). **The client’s weight should be confirmed prior to Rablg administration.**

Site: Infiltrate as much Rablg as possible deep into and around the wound(s) in order to neutralize the virus. Inject the remaining amount intramuscularly (IM) in the ventrogluteal area (in those > 7 months of age) or in the anterolateral thigh. When more than one wound site exists, each should be locally infiltrated with a portion of the Rablg using a separate syringe and needle for each infiltration. If there are extensive wounds, where the calculated dose of Rablg (by weight) is **not** adequate in volume to infiltrate all wounds, dilute the Rablg 2-3 fold in normal saline to create an adequate volume to infiltrate all wounds. When there is no wound site, the Rablg should be given IM in the ventrogluteal site (in those > 7 months of age) or in the anterolateral thigh. The deltoid should **not** be used for rabies immune globulin administration. Both deltoid sites should be reserved for the administration of rabies vaccine. ***Under no circumstances should rabies immune globulin be administered in the same syringe or at the same site as rabies vaccine.***

RABIES VACCINE:

Person not previously immunized for rabies: Give the first dose of rabies vaccine as soon as possible after exposure (**day 0**). Give subsequent doses on **days 3, 7 and 14** after the first dose given on day 0.

Dose: Each dose is 1 ml intramuscularly (IM).

Site: Vaccine should be administered into the anterolateral upper thigh for infants less than 12 months of age and into the deltoid muscle for children ≥ 12 months of age and adults (**never in the gluteal region**).

Person previously immunized for rabies: consult local health unit (see below)

TETANUS:

Tetanus is also an important consideration and the opportunity to update tetanus-diphtheria immunization should not be missed. If you have any further questions, please contact your local health unit at: () _____ . Also, the Medical Health Officer is on call after hours at: () _____ .