



BC Centre for Disease Control

April 29, 2003

ATTN: Medical Health Officers and Branch Offices
Public Health Nursing Administrators and Assistant Administrators
Holders of Communicable Disease Control Manuals

Re: Revised Rabies Control Guidelines

Please note the following revisions to the Rabies Control Guidelines:

Page 4, Section 4.1 "Was the person exposed to a bat, or bitten or licked by another possible rabid animal?"

- New information has been added to the last two paragraphs on this page:
 - Because skin integrity is always suspect, if a rabid animal licks intact skin, RPEP is indicated.
 - If a domestic animal is known to have had significant contact with a rabid animal (e.g. cat played with a bat later determined to be rabid) and an individual has an exposure to the animal in which rabies virus could have been transmitted, RPEP is indicated.

Page 5, Section 4.3 "Did the exposure occur in BC?"

- Updated epidemiology of rabies in Canada.

Page 6, Section 5.0 "Historical Information:"

- This historical information has not changed, just moved from section 4.3.

Page 7, Section 6.0 "Release of biologicals for rabies post-exposure prophylaxis:"

- Outlines routing of revised form: "Rabies Exposure Report and Rabies Biologicals Request Form" when rabies biologicals are released from a local depot or from the BCCDC Warehouse (Lynden)
- Includes after hours contact information for the BCCDC Warehouse (Lynden).

Administrative Circular: 2003:06



Epidemiology Services
BC Centre for Disease Control Society
655 W 12th Ave
Vancouver BC V5Z 4R4

Tel: (604) 660-6061
Fax: (604) 660-0197
epidserv@bccdc.hnet.bc.ca
www.bccdc.org

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Page 9, Section 7.0 "Recording:"

- New section pertaining to documentation of the administration of rabies vaccine and HRIG, as well as to documentation when RPEP is refused.

Appendix A: updated list of CFIA Veterinary Offices

Appendix B: list of locally established rabies biologicals depot sites.

Appendix D: new form entitled "Record of rabies immune globulin administration." This form is to be used when a non-health unit site administers RPEP. BCCDC is required to forward the HRIG administration information to Canadian Blood Services.

The revised Rabies Control Guidelines are posted on the BCCDC website at:
www.bccdc.org

Please remove and destroy the following from the Communicable Disease Control Manual:

Rabies

Pages 1 to 10	Dated January 2002
Appendix A	Dated January 2002
Appendix B, Pages 1 and 2	Dated January 2002
Appendix C	Dated January 2002
Appendix D	Dated January 2002

Please insert the following replacement pages in the Communicable Disease Control Manual:

Rabies

Table of Contents and pages 1 to 18	Dated April 2003
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If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Karen Pielak, Nurse Epidemiologist, at telephone (604) 660-6061, fax (604) 660-0197, or e-mail karen.pielak@bccdc.ca.

Sincerely,

David Patrick
Director
Epidemiology Services
BC Centre for Disease Control
DMP/kka

pc: Dr Perry Kendall
Provincial Health Officer
Ministry of Health Services

Dr. Shaun Peck
Deputy Provincial Health Officer
Ministry of Health Services

Dr. Bob Fisk
Medical Consultant
Non-Communicable Disease
Services
Ministry of Health Planning

Lorna Storbakken
Director
Disease and Injury Prevention Branch
Ministry of Health Planning

Jane Crickmore
Public Health Nursing Consultant
Disease and Injury Prevention Branch
Ministry of Health Planning