December 14, 2006

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 (CDC Manual – Chapter I,
    Management of Specific Diseases, Rabies)

Please note the following revisions to the CDC Manual - Rabies:

Page 7, Subsection 4.7 “Can the dog, cat, or ferret be observed for 10 days to check for signs of rabies:”

Revised wording: “if the bite wound is to the head and neck region, consideration should be given to immediately initiating RPEP, and not delaying initiation until after the 10-day observation period.”

Page 8, Subsection 4.9 “Exposures in persons previously immunized against rabies;” and Appendix C “Human rabies immune globulin (HRIG) dosage by bodyweight;”

- New footnotes:
  - In situations where STAT rabies antibody titre is recommended, have serum sample taken and administer first dose of rabies vaccine while awaiting lab results.
  - For STAT requests, phone BCCDC Laboratory Services with the patient's demographics: Lab Supervisor at 604-707-2827 or Medical Microbiologist on call at 604-661-7033.”

Administrative Circular # 2006:15
Appendix D “Instructions for the administration of rabies vaccine and rabies immune globulin:”

- Incorporated recently revised guideline for the administration of IM injections to children: “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.”

Please remove and destroy the following pages from the CDC Manual, Chapter I - Management of Specific Diseases, Rabies:

Pages 7 and 8, Appendices C and D Dated June 2006

Please insert the following replacements in the CDC Manual, Chapter I - Management of Specific Diseases, Rabies:

Pages 7 and 8, Appendices C and D Dated December 2006

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Karen Pielak, Nurse Epidemiologist, @ telephone (604)660-6061, fax (604)660-0197 or by email karen.pielak@bccdc.ca

Sincerely,

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