



BC Centre for Disease Control  
AN AGENCY OF THE PROVINCIAL HEALTH SERVICES AUTHORITY

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  $\geq$  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](mailto:karen.pielak@bccdc.ca)

Sincerely,

David Patrick  
Director  
Epidemiology Services  
BC Centre for Disease Control

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

Dr. Eric Young  
Deputy Provincial Health Officer  
Ministry of Health Services

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

Warren O'Briain  
Executive Director  
Comm Disease and Addiction Prevention  
Ministry of Health Services

Craig Thompson  
Manager, Communicable Disease Prevention --Immunization  
Communicable Disease and Addiction Prevention  
Ministry of Health Services