



BC Centre for Disease Control
An agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority

Immunization Programs and Vaccine
Preventable Diseases Service
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Date: May 28, 2014

Administrative Circular: 2014:06

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

**Re: Update to Communicable Disease Control Manual:
Chapter 1 - Management of Specific Disease, Rabies
Chapter 2 - Immunization Program, Section VII- Biological Products**

Chapter 1 - Management of Specific Disease, Rabies

Numerous updates were made throughout Chapter 1– Management of Specific Diseases, Rabies based on a review of the evidence and to account for changes in responsibilities following the CFIA devolution of rabies responsibilities on April 1 2014. Important content area changes are highlighted below:

Pages 8-11, Chapter 1 – Management of Specific Diseases, Rabies, Section 3.2, “Observation and Testing of Animals”

Section 3.2.1: We did not find evidence to support the statement that animals in enzootic areas have longer rabies excretion period. We now state that BC residents exposed in an enzootic area may not need to receive RPEP if the exposing animal can be observed and remains well for 10 days.

Section 3.2.2: A new section was added to inform public health practitioners of the guidance that veterinarians have received to manage animal-to-animal exposures.

Section 3.2.3: Information was added to reflect the new Health Authority responsibilities in the coordination of the collection, packaging and shipment of animals for testing in the case of human exposure. All references to the CFIA District Veterinarians were removed since they are no longer involved in these activities.

Page 18, Chapter 1 – Management of Specific Diseases, Rabies, Section 4.0, “Risk Management”

Section 4.5: Health Canada clarified the process by which vaccines are licensed in other countries and pre-qualified by WHO. It was decided that only vaccine products approved in Canada, other developed countries or pre-qualified by WHO and administered according to a WHO-approved schedule be accepted as valid in BC.

Page 1 of 3

Page 27-32, Chapter 1 – Management of Specific Diseases, Rabies, Appendices

Appendix A: The CFIA lab submission form was added.

Appendix B: More detailed instructions for packaging and shipping animal specimens were added.

Appendix C: Data fields were added 1) to link the case report form to the lab submission form and 2) to clarify past vaccine administration.

Please remove and destroy the following from the Communicable Disease Control Manual, Chapter 1 – Management of Specific Diseases, Rabies

Table of Contents
Pages 1 to 28

Dated May 2013

Please insert the following in the Communicable Disease Control Manual, Chapter 1- Management of Specific Diseases, Rabies

Table of Contents
Pages 1 to 33

Dated May 2014

Chapter 2 - Section VII- Biological Products

Human Rabies Immune Globulin (Rabig) for Post-Exposure Prophylaxis

The pages have been updated to add a link to the CD Manual, Chapter 1, Rabies, Section 4.2.1:RPEP started in other countries.

**Please remove page numbers 53 and 54 dated May 2013
Please replace with page numbers 53 and 54 dated May2014**

Rabies Vaccine for Post-Exposure Prophylaxis

The pages have been updated to include information about RPEP started in another country and include links to the CD Manual, Chapter 1, Rabies, Sections 4.2.1 and 4.5.

**Please remove page numbers 55 and 56 dated May 2013
Please replace with page numbers 55-57 dated May 2014**

Rabies Vaccine for Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis

Under Serological Testing and Booster Doses, the recommendations under Low Risk have been updated to match Chapter 1, Rabies, Table 2. Pre-Exposure Rabies Immunization.

**Please remove page numbers 57 and 58 dated May 2013
Please replace with page numbers 58a and 58b dated May 2014**

Please also remove the Table of Contents for Section VII – Biologicals Products dated April 2014 and replace with the enclosed updated Table of Contents section dated May 2014.

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If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Dr. Eleni Galanis, Physician Epidemiologist at telephone (604)707-2558, or by email at eleni.galanis@bccdc.ca or Christine Halpert, Senior Practice Leader for Immunization at telephone (604) 707-2555, fax (604) 707-2515 or by email at Christine.halpert@bccdc.ca.

Sincerely,



Monika Naus, MD MHS Sc FRCPC FACPM
Medical Director
Immunization Programs and Vaccine Preventable Diseases Service
BC Centre for Disease Control

pc: BC Ministry of Health:

Dr. Perry Kendall
Provincial Health Officer

Dr. Eric Young
Deputy Provincial Health Officer

Craig Thompson
Director, CD Prevention – Immunization

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