



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

August 29, 2005

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; and Chapter II, Immunization Program)**

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

Page 3:

- paragraph lists rabies vaccines used in other countries that meet WHO requirements for safety, potency, and efficacy.

Page 5, Subsection 4.2 “Have first aid and wound care been performed:”

- recommends use of soap and water only for cleaning, and not the previously listed agents due to their ability to cause tissue irritation and damage.

Page 7, Subsection 4.8 “Did the animal exhibit signs compatible with rabies:”

- added a note pertaining to provoked and unprovoked animal behaviour. In areas where rabies is endemic in a specific animal species, do not consider that animal's biting behaviour as provoked or unprovoked. Consider the animal as potentially infectious for rabies.

Page 10, Section 7.0 “Recording:”

- 5th bullet: when iPHIS cannot be accessed, new instruction is to fax the "Rabies Exposure Report and Rabies Biologicals Request Form" to the Biologicals Desk. BCCDC will enter this information into iPHIS on your behalf. The information is needed for monitoring the epidemiology of rabies in BC and the utilization of RPEP.

Page 11, Section 9.0 “Simian B Virus:”

- more detailed information on this issue will soon be included in a new section of the CDC Manual, Chapter I – Management of Specific Diseases, Simian B Virus.

Administrative Circular # 2005:09



Page 19, Appendix E: Record of Rabies Vaccine and Rabies Immune Globulin Administration:"

- added space to record the administration of rabies vaccine

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

Table of Contents and
Pages 1 – 19

Dated October 2004

Insert the following replacement pages:

Table of Contents and
Pages 1 – 19

Dated August 2005

Please note the following changes to the CDC Manual, Chapter II - Immunization Program, Section VII Biological Products:

Table of Contents:

- only one entry per vaccine

Page 45, 49 and 50c:

- recommendation for the situation where a rabies vaccine series has been started or completed elsewhere and it was not given in accordance with current WHO standards.

Pages 48 and 50b:

- precautions added for persons on immunosuppressive therapy and persons taking chloroquine or mefloquine

Pages 50 and 50d:

- precautions added for persons on immunosuppressive therapy and persons taking mefloquine

Please remove and destroy the following pages from the CDC Manual, Chapter II – Immunization Program, Section VII Biological Products:

Table of Contents
Page 45
Pages 48, 49, 50, 50b, 50c, and 50d

Dated June 2005
Dated March 2005
Dated June 2005

Insert the following replacement pages:
Table of Contents
Pages 45, 48, 49, 50, 50b, 50c, and 50d

Dated August 2005

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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DMP/kka

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