



June 30, 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 4, Section 4.0 RABIES POST-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS GUIDELINES (RPEP):**

- Reference to a new sub-section "4.9: Exposures in persons previously immunized against rabies."

**Page 5, Section 4.1: Was the person exposed to a bat, or bitten or licked by another possibly rabid animal?**

- Clarification of which body substances/tissues are considered potentially infectious for the rabies virus.

**Page 7, Section 4.3: Did the exposure occur in BC?**

- Direction regarding exposure to a potential animal vector of rabies in a rabies-epizootic area: RPEP should be started as soon as possible after the exposure. Initiation of RPEP should not await the results of laboratory examination or an observation period of the implicated animal. The 10 day observation period for dogs, cats, and ferrets should not be applied to these animals in rabies-epizootic areas.

**Page 7, Section 4.7: Can the dog, cat, or ferret be observed for 10 days to check for signs of rabies?**

- Direction regarding situation when bite wound is to the head and neck region: RPEP should begin immediately and not be delayed until after the 10-day observation period.

**Page 8, Section 4.9: Exposures in persons previously immunized against rabies:**

- New section

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**Page 16, APPENDIX B: Rabies Exposure Report and Rabies Biologicals Request Form:**

- New section to record the name of the person who authorized the rabies post-exposure prophylaxis and the name of person who received the authorization. This information is required as per 6.0 RELEASE OF BIOLOGICALS FOR RABIES POST-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS

**Page 17, APPENDIX C: Human rabies immune globulin (HRIG) dosage by bodyweight:**

- Paragraph regarding post-exposure rabies vaccine for those previously immunized repeats information from page 8, Section 4.9

**Page 18, APPENDIX D: Instructions for the Administration of Rabies Vaccine and Rabies Immune Globulin:**

- Recommendation to contact local health unit for information regarding post-exposure rabies vaccine for those previously immunized.

**Page 19, APPENDIX E: Record of Rabies Vaccine and Rabies Immune Globulin Administration:**

- Revised sections to record administration of these products

**Please note the following changes to the Communicable Disease Control Manual, Chapter 2 – Immunization Program, Section VII – Biological Products:**

**Pages 49 and 50c, re: post-exposure rabies vaccine administration:**

- Guidelines for immunization of exposed persons who have been previously immunized against rabies.

**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 August 2005

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

Table of Content and pages 1 - 19

Dated June 2006

**Please remove and destroy the following pages from the CDC Manual, Chapter 2 – Immunization Program, Section VII – Biological Products:**

Pages 49 and 50c

Dated August 2005

**Please insert the following replacements in the CDC Manual, Chapter 2 – Immunization Program, Section VII – Biological Products:**

Pages 49 and 50c

Dated June 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,

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