

# RABIES



## Postexposure Prophylaxis (PEP)

From the 2010 recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)

### What is rabies PEP?

Rabies PEP includes:

- Wound cleaning
- Rabies immune globulin (RIG)\*
- A series of rabies vaccinations\* For persons who have not previously been vaccinated against rabies

\*For persons who have NOT previously been vaccinated against rabies.

### When is it indicated?

PEP should be given to anyone with suspected exposure to the rabies virus. Exposure usually occurs via bites from wildlife such as bats and skunks, but dogs, cats, and other mammals can also transmit the virus. Call Contra Costa Public Health at 925-313-6740 if you would like help in assessing exposure risk.

### How should rabies PEP biologics be administered?

Not previously vaccinated	RIG (20 IU/kg)  Vaccine (1 mL)	Infiltrate wounds with full dose, if possible. Inject remaining volume IM in a site distant from vaccine.  Inject IM, in deltoid, on days 0, 3, 7, and 14*.
Previously vaccinated	RIG (20 IU/kg)  Vaccine (1 mL)	Do not administer.  Inject IM in deltoid on days 0 and 3.

\*Immunocompromised persons should receive five doses of vaccine (1 dose of vaccine on days 0, 3, 7, 14, and 28).

### Important Do's and Don'ts!



**Do**

- Infiltrate all wounds with RIG, unless patient was previously vaccinated.
- Put as much of the RIG as anatomically feasible at the site of the wound(s).
- Inject vaccine in deltoid (or thigh in children).
- Report ALL animal bites to Contra Costa Animal Services at 925-335-8300.
- Call Contra Costa Public Health at 925-313-6740 with questions about rabies/ PEP questions.



**Don't**

- Inject any rabies biologic in the gluteus (unless bite wound is located there).
- Give RIG to a previous recipient of PEP or pre-exposure vaccination.
- Inject RIG and vaccine at the same site, in the same limb or using the same syringe.
- Give more than the recommended dose of RIG.