

# Clinical Guideline

# Rabies Prevention

Patient reports animal bite (or exposure to brain tissue) from animal who is a possible reservoir for rabies. (See box.)

Does the patient require rabies post-exposure prophylaxis? (See box.) Yes or maybe

Patient in

village?

Yes

1. Health Aide completes visit in RAVEN including Rabies Investigation Report and reports patient to provider.

Provide usual wound treatment including amoxicillin-

clavulanate prophylaxis for open wounds.

- 2. Provider uses "..rmtrabies" to document and forwards the final note to the OEH Department pool.
- 3. Provider refers patient to Bethel ED or outpatient clinic for day 0 treatment and immunoglobulin.
- 1. Patient presents to ED or outpatient clinic.
- 2. Patient is given Day 0 vaccine, and the wound is infiltrated with immunoglobulin. See box for details.
- 3. Provider documents using autotext "..edrabies."
- 4. Provider orders rabies vaccine as a prescription for three more doses.
- 5. Provider instructs patient to go to the pharmacy to pick up vaccine and to call village clinic to make appointments on days 3, 7, and 14.
- 6. Patient Custom Education, "Rabies Prevention with Process for Vaccine Doses (Custom)," is completed with the dates of days 3, 7, and 14 and given to the patient.
- 7. Provider forwards final note to the OEH Department pool.

# Indications for Rabies Prophylaxis

- 1. The bite was from a potential vector of transmission, and this animal is not available to test.
- 2. The bite was from a dog who was behaving abnormally.
- 3. If the dog is available for quarantine, do not start postexposure prophylaxis regardless of vaccination status. OEH (Office of Environmental Health) will initiate a 10-day quarantine. Please check under "all documents" for Alert Note or for the rabies investigation report from OEH.
- 4. If consultation is needed, call OEH at 543-6420 or State Section of Epidemiology 907-269-8000 or 800-478-0084 after hours.
- 1. Patient presents to ED or outpatient clinic.
- 2. Patient is given Day 0 vaccine, and the wound is infiltrated with immunoglobulin. See box for details.
- 3. Provider documents using autotext "..edrabies."
- 4. Provider forwards final note to the OEH Department pool.

Appointment is made for the outpatient clinic for Days 3, 7, and 14. If any of these fall on a weekend, patient to be seen in the ED.

- Days 3, 7, and 14 vaccine given in village
- If no health aide in village, patient must come to Bethel for all doses.

# If There are Problems with Travel

- · If travel from a village to Bethel cannot be arranged within 3-5 days, provider orders the vaccine for HAND CARRY to village clinic. Provider should include explanation of situation under "eRx Note to Pharmacy." There MUST be a health aide in the village.
- Immunoglobulin must be given within seven days of first dose of vaccine. This must be given in
- · Continue to try to arrange travel so that patient will be in Bethel within seven days of first dose.

### Animals in Alaska that have Tested Positive for Rabies

- 1. Arctic fox
- 2. Caribou
- 3. Cat 4. Coyote
- 5. Dog
- 6. Keen's myotis bat
- 7. Little brown bat
- 8. Red fox
- 9. Reindeer
- 10. River otter
- 11. Wolf
- 12. Wolverine

Medications Use Power Plans "ED Rabies Prophylaxis" or "AMB Rabies Prophylaxis."

- · Rabies vaccine 1 mL IM, given on days 0, 3, 7, 14. Same dose for adults and children. Day 0 is the first day the vaccine is given, not the day of exposure.
- Immunocompromised patients require an additional dose on day 28.
- · Rabies vaccine must be refrigerated. It may be out of the refrigerator for less than 48 hours as long as it is not stored above 86°F. If vaccine is not stored properly, patient should call pharmacy refill line at 543-6988 to report this and arrange for more to be sent to village.
- Rabies immune globulin 20 units/kg given once. Give as much of dose as possible around and into the wound(s). Administer remainder of dose IM at a site distant from the vaccine administration site. Must give within seven days of first vaccine dose.

#### Other Resources

- See the supplement to this guideline on the wiki.
  State of Alaska DHSS Rabies page.
- Use the Power Plans "AMB/ED Rabies Prophylaxis" to find all necessary orders.
- · See Division of Public Health Rabies Post-Exposure Prophylaxis Treatment Sheet.

# Office of Environmental Health (OEH)

- · All patients with animal bites are tracked by the OEH. The Rabies Investigation Report can be found under Documentation → All and includes recommendations from the OEH.
- If you need advice urgently, send message with MRN via Tiger Connect to OEHE On Call.

This guideline is designed for the general use of most patients but may need to be adapted to meet the special needs of a specific patient as determined by the medical practitioner. Approved by Clinical Guideline Committee 6/1/23. Click here to see the supplemental resources for this guideline. If comments about this guideline, please contact Travis\_Nelson@ykhc.org.