Rabies Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) Guidance

BASED ON ACIP RECOMMENDATIONS

When patient has never been vaccinated against rabies:

Administer 4 doses within 10 days of exposure:



Day of exposure:
- ✓ Wound care
- ✓ Human rabies immune globulin (HRIG)
- ✓ Vaccine #1

Vaccine #2

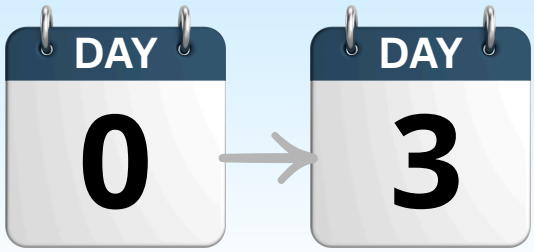
Vaccine #3

Vaccine #4

Immunocompromised ONLY: Vaccine #5

When patient has previously been vaccinated against rabies:

Administer two doses:

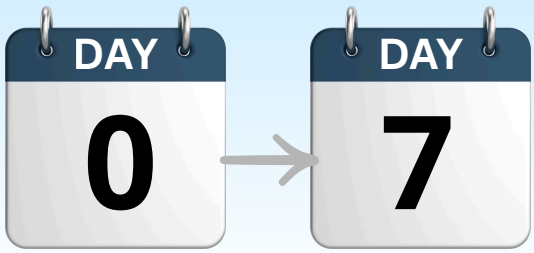


Vaccine #1

Vaccine #2

When patient requires preventative vaccine (pre-exposure prophylaxis):

Administer two doses:



Vaccine #1

Vaccine #2

Recommend regular titer checks or booster shots based on patient's risk level.

Commonly Reported Errors (CDC HAN 00533)

- Administering rabies vaccine in the gluteal area
- Failing to infiltrate HRIG into and around all identifiable wounds
- Administering HRIG and vaccine in the same syringe or anatomical site
- Forgetting to give HRIG to someone who needs it
- Administering HRIG to a person previously vaccinated against rabies
- Misclassifying vaccination history or immune status
- Unnecessarily restarting the rabies vaccine series after a schedule deviation
- Using incorrect rabies vaccine schedule

What if there are deviations from the vaccine schedule?

In general, deviations from the recommended vaccine schedule of up to several days are not of concern, but longer deviations require public health consultation.

PEP Schedule Calculator:
bit.ly/pep-calculator

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We can assist with risk assessments.