Authorizing and Obtaining Rabies Post-exposure Biologicals

Revision Date: February 25, 2015

The procedure for authorizing and obtaining rabies post-exposure biologicals by the Medical Officer of Health (MOH)/designate ensures the availability of post-exposure biologicals within Alberta Health Services (AHS) Zones on a timely basis. Alberta Health has provided a limited supply of Rabies Immune Globulin (RIG) and rabies vaccine to each AHS Zone.

Alberta Health requires timely reporting regarding rabies post-exposure prophylaxis. Replacement of rabies post-exposure biologicals is dependent on the required information being provided.

1. Authorization of biologicals

- The MOH/designate within the AHS Zone will authorize the release of rabies immune globulin (RIG) or rabies vaccine for an individual.
- The Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health (OCMOH) is available for consultation if desired by the MOH.
- RIG and rabies vaccine should be stocked where it cannot be accessed without MOH/designate authorization.

2. AHS Zone rabies post-exposure biologicals

- Each AHS Zone has been provided with a stock supply of RIG and rabies vaccine which enables staff, upon the authorization of the MOH/designate, to administer the RIG and vaccine without waiting for a shipment from the Alberta Health Provincial Vaccine Depot. The amount provided has been determined by Alberta Health based on previous rabies activity. Every AHS Zone has at least enough RIG and rabies vaccine to provide post-exposure prophylaxis for one adult:
  - RIG (7 vials for up to 105 kg /231 lb.)
  - Vaccine (4 doses)
- When an individual requires post-exposure prophylaxis, the stock within the AHS Zone should be used.
  - The Rabies Post-Exposure Prophylaxis Report should be started when the MOH/designate authorizes prophylaxis for an individual. Complete the top portion of the form, including the “Intend to Use” RIG and vaccine amounts, and fax to the Alberta Health Provincial Vaccine Depot at 780-992-6988. This initiates the process for replacement of the stock of RIG and rabies vaccine.
  - The Rabies Post-Exposure Prophylaxis Report should be completed and returned to the Provincial Vaccine Depot: Fax #: 780-992-6988 within one week of completion of prophylaxis.

3. Replacing AHS Zone rabies post-exposure biologicals

- Receipt of the initial Rabies Post-Exposure Prophylaxis Report by Alberta Health, Immunization Program triggers the process to provide the AHS Zone with replacement RIG and rabies vaccine.
- Alberta Health, Immunization Program authorizes the Alberta Health, Provincial Vaccine Depot to ship the RIG and rabies vaccine to the AHS Zone. The replacement stock of RIG and rabies vaccine will be sent with the next routine biological order unless required sooner.
4. Requirements for additional biologicals

If more RIG and rabies vaccine is needed (multiple cases occurring at a time, or a larger dose of RIG is required), the following procedures are followed.

- **During regular business hours:**
  - Contact the Alberta Health, Provincial Vaccine Depot at 780-992-6980 to arrange the shipment of the required biologicals.

- **Outside of regular business hours:**
  - The MOH/designate must page OCMOH on call at 780-638-3630.
  - OCMOH will contact the Alberta Health, Provincial Vaccine Depot staff on call to arrange for product shipment as soon as possible.
  - The *Rabies Post-Exposure Prophylaxis Report* must be started for each individual and faxed the next business day to Alberta Health, Provincial Vaccine Depot (780-992-6988).