

Authorizing and Obtaining Rabies Post-exposure Biologicals

Revision Date: February 20, 2019

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.

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.

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 maximum amount provided has been determined by Alberta Health in agreement with the AHS Zones based on historical distribution quantities. 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)

3. Replacing AHS Zone rabies post-exposure biologicals

- The replacement stock of RIG and rabies vaccine needs to be ordered and will be shipped 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.

5. Inventory Management Guidelines

- It is expected that AHS vaccine coordinators will manage the stock in their zones appropriately to prevent over stocking of these products. Reminders to replace RIG and rabies vaccine will no longer be provided by the PVD staff so remember to order replacement stock on your routine orders as required.
- To help minimize wastage, the PVD will assist with movement of product around the province to a zone where it could be used prior to its expiry.