



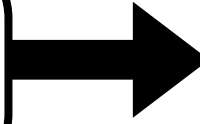
RABIES

Post-exposure Prophylaxis (PEP)



Question

Does the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) offer post-exposure prophylaxis for rabies at any local health unit or pay for the vaccine?



Answer

ADH **DOES NOT PAY** for or **provide post-exposure prophylaxis for rabies at any local health unit and DOES NOT PAY** for the vaccine.

- **ADH solely offers rabies consultations. It will be the individual's and their care provider's obligation to arrange and get the vaccine.**
- Always administer post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) if a patient was bitten or otherwise exposed to:
 - A rabies-positive animal
 - A rabies vector species that is unavailable for testing
- Consider PEP if a patient was bitten or otherwise exposed to a dog or cat that is unavailable for observation.
- Do not start PEP if the patient was bitten by a dog or cat that is healthy and can be observed for 10 days.
- Animals in Arkansas most likely to have rabies: skunks, bats, dogs, and cats.

Steps for Vaccination

Never Vaccinated

The patient has never received a complete regimen of either rabies pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) or rabies PEP.

Previously Vaccinated

The patient has received either rabies PEP for a previous exposure or rabies PrEP.*

1. Clean the wounds.

Thoroughly irrigate with soap and water or dilute water povidone-iodine solution.

Always.

Always.

2. Administer 20 international units per kilogram of human rabies immune globulin (HRIG). Thoroughly infiltrate the area in and around the wounds with a full dose of HRIG, if possible. Otherwise, inject the remaining volume intramuscularly in a site distant from the vaccine.

Yes.

No.

3. Vaccinate.

Intramuscular vaccination in the deltoid or, for children, in the deltoid or anterolateral thigh. Vaccination should **never** be given in the gluteal area.

Yes on days 0, 3, 7 and 14. Patients who are immunocompromised should receive an additional dose on day 28.

Yes on days 0 and 3 only.

Important

DO infiltrate all wounds with HRIG, unless the patient was previously vaccinated.

DO inject vaccine in deltoid or thigh (in children). Give tetanus booster, if appropriate.

DO report animal bites to local police, animal control and/or health department.

DON'T give HRIG to a previous recipient of PEP or PrEP.

DON'T inject vaccine at the same site as HRIG.

DON'T give more than recommended dose of HRIG.

DON'T inject vaccine in gluteal area.

DON'T give HRIG in the same syringe as vaccine.

