



Indiana State Department of Health

Indiana Health Alert Network Notification – November 26, 2019

Update: Availability of Rabies Vaccine and Immune Globulin

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently reported a limited or unavailable supply for both rabies vaccine and rabies immune globulin. Supply is currently limited for one rabies vaccine and one rabies immune globulin product. **The current supply limitations are not expected to impact overall availability of rabies biologics nationally. Healthcare providers should continue to administer pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) when indicated.**

Availability of Human Rabies Vaccine

RabAvert rabies vaccine (produced by GlaxoSmithKline) is experiencing a temporary limited supply, but is still available for both PrEP and PEP. Clinicians can request RabAvert for any patient who needs PrEP or PEP by contacting GSK's Vaccine Service Center directly at 866-475-8222, option 3.

IMOVAX rabies vaccine (produced by Sanofi Pasteur) is now available, following a shortage earlier this year. Sanofi Pasteur began shipping IMOVAX on October 28, 2019. IMOVAX is available from wholesalers, distributors and directly from the manufacturer. Call Sanofi Pasteur at 1-800-VACCINE if IMOVAX is not available from your wholesalers or distributors.

Availability of Human Rabies Immune Globulin

KEDRAB (produced by Kedrion Biopharma) is available with no restrictions.

HyperRab (produced by Grifols) is available with no restrictions. (HyperRab is a more potent version of the previously licensed HyperRab S/D and requires a smaller volume to achieve the recommended 20 IU/kg dose.)

Imogam (produced by Sanofi Pasteur) is currently experiencing a temporary shortage and is **only available to healthcare providers who have a patient with current suspected rabies exposure requiring immediate PEP.** Providers can obtain Imogam directly from the manufacturer by faxing a completed Rabies Post-Exposure Form (found at vaccineshoppe.com) to 1-877-287-9391 (Attn: Sanofi Pasteur Customer Service).

For updates, please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/rabies/resources/availability.html>.

Completing Rabies Risk Assessments

While the current supply limitations are not expected to impact overall availability of rabies vaccine and immune globulin, PrEP and PEP should always be administered judiciously. Administration of PEP for low-risk exposures can cause or contribute to supply interruptions or shortages. Healthcare providers are therefore encouraged to complete rabies risk assessments to determine the need for PEP. Healthcare providers may request assistance with rabies risk assessments from local health departments (<https://www.in.gov/isdh/24822.htm>) or the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) (317-233-1325).

Additionally, ISDH and the Indiana State Board of Animal Health (BOAH) have developed an interactive tool (the "slide card," see photo below) to assist healthcare professionals with rabies risk assessments. To request a slide card, please call 317-233-7125.

Gathering Additional Evidence

When possible after an exposure, efforts should be made to safely capture the animal involved so that its health status can be assessed. If the animal is a dog, cat, or ferret, the animal should be confined and observed for 10 days. Those that remain alive and healthy 10 days after the bite would not have been infectious at the time of the bite. If the animal is a bat, skunk, raccoon, fox, or other wild carnivore, or if the animal is a dog, cat, or ferret for which a 10-day observation period cannot be completed, the animal should be submitted to the ISDH Laboratory for rabies testing.

In most cases, healthcare providers are encouraged to delay administration of PEP until the 10-day quarantine is completed or rabies testing results are available. If the animal is not available for quarantine or testing, or if there are concerns about delaying administration of PEP, healthcare providers are encouraged to contact the local health department (<https://www.in.gov/isdh/24822.htm>) or ISDH (317-233-1325) for consultation.

For more information

CDC's Rabies Vaccine and Immune Globulin Availability page:

<https://www.cdc.gov/rabies/resources/availability.html>

Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) current recommendations:

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/vacc-specific/rabies.html>

State of Indiana rabies page: <https://www.in.gov/rabies/>

For additional questions, please contact the ISDH Epidemiology Resource Center at 317-233-7125.

