

APPENDIX IV RABIES PRE-EXPOSURE IMMUNIZATION

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It is recommended that veterinarians, veterinary technicians, animal control officers, shelter workers, persons who will be preparing rabies specimens, and persons working closely with wildlife consider receiving rabies pre-exposure immunization.

Pre-exposure immunization consists of the administration of 1.0 ml human diploid cell vaccine (HDCV) or purified chick embryo cell culture (PCEC) intramuscularly on days 0, 7, and 21 or 28.

Persons who have received the complete post-exposure treatment series are considered pre-immunized for any future exposures.

If exposed to a rabid animal, pre-immunized individuals will need only two booster doses of vaccine (days 0 and 3) and no rabies immune globulin (RIG), as opposed to five doses of vaccine and RIG required for non-immunized individuals. Pre-immunized individuals should be sure to keep their proof of vaccination records for potential verification purposes in the event they are exposed to a rabid animal.

Pre-immunized individuals should have a serum sample tested for rabies antibody every 2 years; if the titer is less than complete neutralization at a 1:5 serum dilution by the rapid fluorescent focus inhibition test (RFFIT), the person should receive a single booster dose of vaccine.

Human rabies vaccines

There are two human rabies vaccines licensed in the United States that are available from pharmaceutical suppliers:

HDCV (IMOVAX) is manufactured by Sanofi Pasteur, (800) 822-2463,
<http://www.vaccineshoppe.com/products/>

PCEC (RabAvert) is manufactured by Novartis, (800) 244-7668,
<http://www.novartisvaccines.com/products/travel.shtml>

These companies will only ship these vaccines to human medical care providers.

Rabies RFFIT antibody serology testing is performed at the following locations:

1. Kansas State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, Mossier Hall 0-245, 1800 Dennison Avenue, Manhattan, Kansas 66506, <http://www.vet.ksu.edu/depts/dmp/service/rabies/index.htm>, telephone: (785) 532-4483. The current cost: screen \$30 (\$25 each for 10 or more serums), endpoint \$35, animal serum \$45.
2. Atlanta Health Associates, Inc., 309 Pirkle Ferry Road, Suite D300, Cumming, Georgia 30040, <http://www.atlantahealth.net/>, telephone: (800) 717-5612, (770) 205-9091. The current cost: screen \$25 (\$20 each for 10 or more serums), endpoint \$40, animal serum \$45.
3. Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Laboratories Administration, 201 West Preston, Baltimore, MD 21203, telephone: Dr. Robert Myers (410) 767-6178. Services limited to municipal and public employees. The current cost is \$66 for endpoint titer.

Preparing blood specimens for testing:

After centrifugation of blood collected in a red-top tube, transfer two ml of serum to an untreated, plastic, leak-proof container and refrigerate. Send the labeled specimen along with the name and vaccination history for each serum, as well as the name and address of the person to whom results should be sent, to one of the above laboratories. Contact the individual laboratories ahead of time for submission forms and to make arrangements for payment and result notification.