

MEDICAL ADVISORY

Rabies Immune Globulin (Rablg) – Sparing Guidelines for Ontario

TO: Family Physicians
Emergency Departments
Infectious Disease Physicians
St. Joseph's Centre for Ambulatory Health Services, Urgent Care

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

Central West Medical Officers of Health
Academy of Medicine
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Mr. Bruce Squires, President, McMaster Children's Hospital
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FROM: Dr. Bart Harvey, Associate Medical Officer of Health, City of Hamilton

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Rabies Immune Globulin (Rablg) – Sparing Guidelines for Ontario

Due to the rabies vaccine and immunoglobulin shortages, the Ontario Chief Medical Officer of Health has implemented the Rabies Immune Globulin – Sparing Guidelines (August 9, 2019) to be implemented immediately.

The World Health Organization (WHO) no longer recommends injecting the remainder of the calculated Rablg dose IM at the site distant from the site of the exposure. If the entire calculated dose of the Rablg cannot anatomically be infiltrated around the wound (s) or the site of exposure, do NOT give the remainder of the dose IM. Open only one vial at a time and save any unused vials for another case and ensure it is stored in a monitored refrigerator.

Please review the attached Sparing Guidelines for Ontario for full details as this is a change in practice.

Rabies Vaccine and Immunoglobulin Shortages

Ministry of Health has notified public health units that due to high demand, the provincial supply of rabies vaccine and rabies immunoglobulin is lower than usual and may not be fully replenished before November 2019. Hamilton Public Health is asking all health care providers to keep this in mind and work with Public Health Inspectors on rabies case management to follow the applicable recommendations resulting from public health risk assessment. For more information, please see the enclosed memorandum from the Ontario Ministry of Health.

How to make a report

Bites or other animal contact incidents should be reported by phoning the City of Hamilton's Rabies Program at the numbers listed below. We can be reached and respond on 24 hour/7 days a week basis.

You can also *follow up* any report using our mandatory reporting form by fax.

Telephone On-Call System

Business Hours (8:30am to 4:30pm)

To report an incident during business hours, please call 905-546-2424 ex. 3327 to reach our Rabies Program secretary's line. Please leave a detailed voicemail message and every effort will be made to return your call as soon as possible on the same day.

After Hours and Weekends

To report an incident outside of business hours, please call the City of Hamilton Public Health Services' answering line at 905-546-3570. Report your details and if you have questions or concerns about the report that are urgent, please ask to speak to the Environmental Health Public Health Inspector on-call.

Additional Contact

After reporting by telephone, you may also submit report details by fax. Please fax to 905-546-2787.

Please contact the Rabies Program with any questions or concerns by telephone at 905-546-2424 ex. 3327.

Enclosures: Ministry of Health Memorandum
Ministry of Health Sparing Protocol

Resource Links:

How to Administer Rabies Post Exposure Prophylaxis Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yCuTF3hVt-o&feature=youtu.be>

Rabies Prevention and Control Protocol, 2018:

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/oph_standards/docs/protocols_guidelines/Rabies_Prevention_and_Control_Protocol_2018_en.pdf

Regulation 557:

http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/regs/english/elaws_regs_900557_e.htm

Canadian Immunization Guidelines – 2015 – Rabies

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/healthy-living/canadian-immunization-guide-part-4-active-vaccines/page-18-rabies-vaccine.html>