



1-888-498-PASS (7277)

## RABIES IMMUNIZATION/CONSENT

### Rabies

Rabies is a disease of animals and people. Rabies is caused by a virus that attacks the brain and nerves. The virus is spread through the saliva of a rabid animal, usually because the animal bites or scratches another person or animal. The virus may also get into the body through open cuts or wounds, or through the eyes, nose, or mouth. Once the virus is inside, it spreads through the body and kills the victims, if they are not treated quickly. The good news is that rabies in humans, pets, and livestock can be prevented by a vaccine. For people who are bitten or scratched by a rabid animal, prompt treatment will protect the person from getting rabies. Treatment usually involves a total of 5 shots of safe and effective rabies vaccine in the arm given over several days and one shot of Human Rabies Immune Globulin (HRIG) given immediately.

### Vaccine

The rabies vaccine is indicated for pre and post-exposure prophylaxis against rabies. Pre-exposure immunization consists of three doses, one each on days 0, 7 and 21 or 28. Pre-exposure immunization should be offered to persons in high-risk groups, such as veterinarians, animal handlers, wild life officers, certain laboratory workers, and persons spending time in foreign countries where rabies is endemic. Although the pre-exposure series does not eliminate the need for prompt therapy after a rabies exposure, it simplifies therapy by eliminating the need for globulin (often made from horse serum in foreign countries) and decreasing the number of doses of vaccine needed. This is of particular importance for persons at high risk of being exposed in countries where the available rabies immunizing products may carry a higher risk of adverse reactions. High-risk groups should have a booster dose every 2 years to insure continual immunity or a titer determination. Post-exposure prophylaxis consists of 5 doses of the rabies vaccine, on days 0, 3, 7, 14 and 28 with an injection of HRIG prior to the start of the series. Immediate treatment should also include thorough washing of all bite wounds and scratches with soap and water.

### Risks and Possible Side Effects

In view of the almost invariably fatal outcome of rabies, there is no contraindication to post-exposure immunization. The most common adverse reaction was pain at the injection site. Other reactions such as induration, swelling and reddening have been reported more often than systemic reactions. The most common systemic reactions were headache, myalgia and malaise. Almost all adverse events were of mild to moderate intensity and none were serious.

### Vaccination is generally not recommended for the following people:

1. Acute febrile illnesses.
2. Anaphylactic reaction to a previous dose, chicken protein, neomycin, gelatin or gelatin-containing products.
3. Pregnant women for pre-exposure only.

If you have any of the above, please notify the staff. If you have any questions, please ask now or check with your physician before receiving the vaccine.

### If you experience any significant reactions, see your physician.

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#### For Clinic Use

Date of Vaccination: \_\_\_\_\_ Manufacturer & Lot #: \_\_\_\_\_ Site: IM  Right  Left

Administered By: \_\_\_\_\_ Clinic Site: \_\_\_\_\_ Payment: \_\_\_\_\_

**I have read the above information about Rabies, and I have had a chance to ask questions. I understand the benefits and risks of Rabies vaccination and request that the vaccine is given to me.**

#### Information-Person to Receive Vaccine

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_