

Rabies post-exposure vaccine and immunoglobulin supply procedure from RCH Pharmacy

This information sheet relates to the emergency supply of rabies vaccine and immunoglobulin only.

For treatment advice, refer to the latest [Communicable Disease Network Australia National Guidelines](#)

Indication:

- Post-exposure prophylaxis for rabies or other lyssaviruses including ABLV (Australian Bat Lyssavirus) where exposure is defined as any bite or scratch from, or mucous membrane/broken skin contact with the saliva of a bat in Australia or elsewhere in the world, or a wild or domestic terrestrial mammal in a rabies-enzootic country (includes Bali).
- **First dose of vaccine (+/- immunoglobulin) to be given at RCH**
- **Subsequent doses** are to be obtained through the patient's general practitioner

Dosage:

- Immunocompetent people should receive FOUR doses of rabies vaccine (the whole vial) by IM injection on days 0, 3, 7, and 14.
- Where applicable, a single dose of HRIG (human rabies immunoglobulin) should also be given: 20 IU/kg infiltrated in and around the wound (ONLY if the wound is open/large). Any HRIG not able to be infiltrated around wound, should be given IM at a separate site to where rabies vaccine is given.

Immunocompromised people should receive **FIVE** doses of vaccine IM on days 0, 3, 7, 14 and 28 and should be assessed for need for further doses by an Infectious Diseases specialist.

Procedure for supply:

1. Doctor prescribes rabies immunoglobulin and vaccine on RCH Medication Chart (MR690/A).
2. Doctor fills out [Dept of Health Post Exposure Rabies/Lyssavirus Treatment Request Form](#) and [SAS forms for rabies immunoglobulin](#)
3. Obtain rabies vaccine and immunoglobulin (if applicable) from the Emergency Department fridge.
4. The vaccine order form should be completed for the FIRST dose of vaccine and rabies immunoglobulin (if applicable).
5. Completed forms MUST be forwarded to RCH Pharmacy by internal mail as soon as vaccine or immunoglobulin is removed from the fridge.
6. Pharmacy Purchasing Officer will then fax it to the Department of Health to order replenishment stock.
7. **Supplies of rabies immunoglobulin and vaccine will ONLY be replenished UPON RECEIPT OF A COMPLETED FORM**
8. Doctor also needs to complete a [Patient Held Record](#) for the patient to take to their GP. The patient's parents should be instructed to contact their GP **as soon as practical** after the initial dose to arrange subsequent immunisations.