

Health

Public Health and Primary Health Care
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May 30, 2012

Dear Health Care Provider:

Re: Rabies: Protocol for Management of Human Rabies and Management of Animal Exposures to Prevent Human Rabies (May 2012)

The following changes have been made to the protocol:

- On page 5, a reporting clarification under Section 8.31 *Reporting Requirements and Responsibilities After Exposure* now reads:
 - If the person's current region of residence is unknown, the exposure should be reported to Health Links-Info Santé (204-788-8200) or (1-888-315-9257).
- On page 9, under Section 8.34 *Rabies Post-exposure Prophylaxis for Previously Immunized Individuals*, the acceptable level for rabies neutralizing antibody has been changed to ≥ 0.5 IU/mL and footnote ^h now reads:

^h Completion of an approved course of pre- or post-exposure prophylaxis with HDCV or PCECV; or completion of an unapproved schedule (i.e., immunization with another type of rabies vaccine or unapproved HDCV or PCECV series) as long as neutralizing rabies antibody of ≥ 0.5 IU/mL is demonstrated. This test is a surrogate for adequate immune response to vaccination (4). Serology specimens should be sent to CPL for testing.

The Communicable Disease Management Protocols, including the protocol listed above, are available on the Manitoba Health website at the following link:
<http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/protocol/index.html> .

As the prevention, management and control of communicable diseases requires the active participation and cooperation of all health care professionals and practitioners, your attention to this information is most appreciated.

Please share this communication with all relevant colleagues in your facility or clinic.

Sincerely,



Peter Parys
Director, Environmental Health & Emergency Preparedness