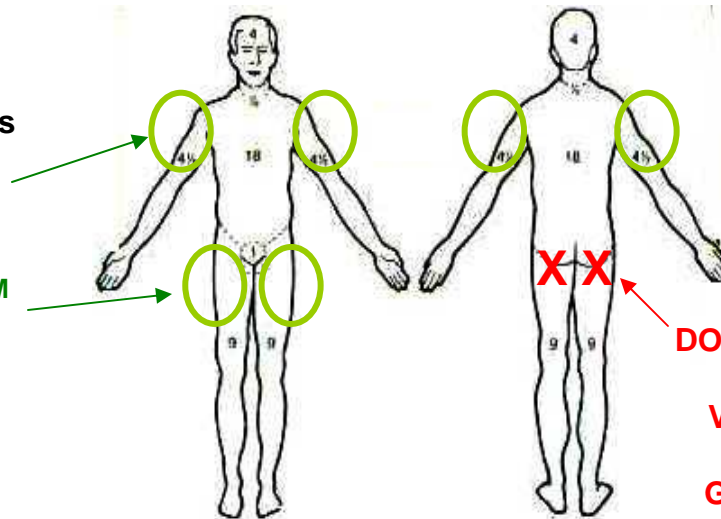


# Human Rabies Immune Globulin and Rabies Vaccine Administration

## Rabies Vaccine Administration Sites

**Deltoid IM for adults and children**

**Anterolateral thigh IM OK for infants and small children**



**DO NOT GIVE RABIES VACCINE IN THE GLUTEAL AREA!**

## Human Rabies Immune Globulin (HRIG)

**Schedule:** HRIG is administered only once, at the beginning of anti-rabies prophylaxis, to previously unvaccinated persons to provide immediate antibodies until they respond to the vaccine by actively producing antibodies of their own.

If HRIG is not administered when vaccination has begun, it can be administered up to seven days after the administration of the first dose of vaccine. Beyond the seventh day, HRIG is not recommended since an antibody response is likely to have occurred.

**Dosage:** The recommended dose of HRIG is 20 IU/kg body weight for ALL ages. Because HRIG can partially suppress active production of antibody, no more than the recommended dose should be administered.

**Route and Sites of Administration:** If anatomically feasible, the full dose of HRIG should be thoroughly infiltrated in the area around and into the wounds. Any remaining volume should be injected intramuscularly (IM) at a site distant from vaccine administration. *The gluteal muscle is an acceptable site for HRIG, but not for rabies vaccine.*

HRIG should never be administered in the same syringe or in the same anatomical site as the first vaccine dose. However, subsequent doses of vaccine in the five-dose series can be administered in the same anatomic location where the HRIG dose was administered.

## Rabies Vaccine

Rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) is a medical urgency, not emergency. Although the first dose of the five-dose course should be administered to previously unvaccinated persons as soon as possible after exposure, premature unnecessary administration is to be avoided. Whenever possible, the animal causing the rabies exposure should be captured and either observed or tested, as appropriate, before PEP is initiated. Consult with Public Health before initiating PEP. All PEP should begin with immediate thorough cleansing of all wounds.

**Schedule and Dosage:** The first dose counts as day 0 of the vaccine series. For previously unvaccinated persons, additional doses should be administered on days 3, 7, 14, and 28 after the first vaccination. Previously vaccinated persons should receive two IM doses, one immediately and one three days later. The dosage is 1.0 ml IM per dose for all ages.

**Route and Sites of Administration:** Rabies vaccine should be administered intramuscularly in the deltoid for adults and children. Use the anterolateral thigh for infants.

The gluteal area should never be used for rabies vaccine injections because administration in this area can result in lower antibody titers. Doses of rabies vaccine administered in the gluteal site should not be counted as valid doses and should be repeated.

Administration of rabies PEP is immediately notifiable in Washington State – for King County residents, report cases to (206) 296-4774.

