



Pat Quinn, Governor
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Local Health Departments, Regional Offices of Illinois Department of Public Health, Hospital Emergency Departments, Hospital Infection Control Professionals

FROM: Connie Austin, D.V.M., M.P.H., Ph.D.
State Public Health Veterinarian

DATE: March 18, 2010

SUBJECT: Reduced (4-dose) vaccine schedule approved for post-exposure prophylaxis for human rabies

Rabies Post-exposure Prophylaxis in the Immunocompetent Patient

Health care providers can now use the reduced four-dose vaccine schedule for post-exposure prophylaxis for human rabies in patients who are not immunocompromised. This guidance has now been described in the MMWR, Recommendations and Reports, Volume 59, No. RR-2. These new recommendations reduce the number of vaccine doses from five vaccine doses to four vaccine doses in persons who are not immunocompromised. Vaccine doses should be administered on days 0, 3, 7 and 14. The final vaccine dose on day 28 can be eliminated. The recommendations for rabies immune globulin for post-exposure prophylaxis remain unchanged and should be given at the same time as the first dose of vaccine.

Rabies Post-exposure Prophylaxis in the Immunocompromised Patient

For immunocompromised individuals, five doses of vaccine are still recommended on days 0, 3, 7, 14 and 28. Rabies immune globulin should be given at the same time as the first dose of vaccine.

Pre-exposure rabies vaccination

Pre-exposure rabies vaccination has not changed and consists of three vaccine doses on days 0, 7 and 21 or 28.