



**How to Write Prescriptions for Uninsured Persons
Never Immunized Against Rabies**
Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)
Health Service Region (HSR) 7
2408 S. 37th Street, Temple, TX 76504
P: (254) 778-6744
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Updated June 30, 2011

Health care providers and/or bite victims should consult with Zoonosis Control staff (254-778-6744) about rabies risks prior to purchasing rabies biologicals from the HSR 7 office in Temple or its depot locations in Austin and Bryan.

Some incidents may not pose a rabies risk or warrant immediate treatment.
The HSR 7 Zoonosis Control Program will dispense human rabies immune globulin and rabies vaccine only for valid rabies exposures.

For some low income, uninsured persons, rabies biologicals may be available free of charge through manufacturers' "patient assistance programs" (Attachment 1).

Uninsured persons may obtain their prescribed rabies biologicals from DSHS HSR 7. The patient will be billed in full for the Texas Department of State Health Services' cost of the biologicals. There are no "reduced rates" or free biologicals from DSHS.

Before DSHS HSR7 will distribute rabies biologicals to an individual for transport back to his/ her health care provider's office for administration, we, or our depot colleagues, must have:

1. an original or faxed prescription, written by a medical professional licensed in Texas, that includes the **ICD9 code and the health care provider's NPI number**. Prescriptions written incorrectly (different from the instructions provided below) will delay the distribution of the rabies biologicals to the patients.
2. a photocopy of the patient's, parent's or guardian's drivers license, and
3. a completed "Human Rabies Biologicals Payment Agreement and Surveillance Report" form (English or Spanish version).

Note: For insured persons (private insurance, Medicare, Medicaid), rabies biologicals should be obtained through rabies biologicals manufacturers, their vendors (Attachment 1) or through a prescription from a local pharmacy instead of the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS). Medicare and Medicaid will not reimburse DSHS for any of the cost of our rabies biologicals, yet health care providers can be reimbursed by these insurers.

For a prescription for persons never immunized against rabies, write:

“Complete postexposure rabies vaccination series, including HRIG (human rabies immune globulin) and **four* (4) doses of rabies vaccine.**” The patient’s accurate body weight **and the ICD9 code for the condition, as well as the health care provider’s NPI number** must be on the prescription.

With this wording DSHS/depots will distribute vials of HRIG based on the patient’s body weight and five doses of rabies vaccine (whatever product is on state contract, e.g. HDCV or PCEC).

Note: HRIG is dosed at 0.06 ml/lb or 0.133 ml/kg or 9 IU/ lb or 20 IU/ kg of body weight.

Example “generic prescription” for a person never vaccinated against rabies:

Dr. “X” Address, Phone, NPI # _____
Date: _____ Patient Name: John Doe _____ Address: _____ _____
Body Weight: (i.e. 156 lbs.) ICD 9 code _____
“Complete post-exposure rabies vaccination series, including HRIG (human rabies immune globulin) and four (4) doses of rabies vaccine.”
_____ Physician’s Signature

* The 4-dose rabies vaccination recommendation can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5902a1.htm> . Five doses of rabies vaccine should be administered for immunocompromised patients.

Attachment #1

Health Service Region 7 Human Rabies Immune Globulin and Human Rabies Vaccine Manufacturer and Distributor Contact Information and Procurement Options for Central Texans

Updated by Beverlee E. Nix, DVM, MPH as of February 4, 2010
Health Service Region 7, Zoonosis Control Program, Temple, TX
(254) 778-6744, ext. 6784

Manufacturer (listed in alphabetical order) and Distributor Contact Information, as of January 13, 2010:

1. **Novartis Vaccines and Diagnostics - RabAvert®** vaccine
(Purified Chick Embryo Cell Culture – PCEC)
 - a. Novartis Customer Service:
 - i. Main Number – (800) 244-7668
 - ii. Michael Lively - (510) 923-3975
 - b. Novartis Wholesale Distributors that operate in Texas:
 - i. AmeriSource Bergen Corporation
 1. Dallas – (800) 442-9619
 2. Houston – (800) 392-3567
 - ii. ASD Healthcare - (800) 746-6273
 - iii. Cardinal – (800) 964-5227
 - iv. FFF Enterprises: (800) 843-7477
 - v. McKesson Medical Surgical – (800) 950-9229

If the provider does not already have an account with Novartis or with one of their distributors, they will have to establish one. Health care providers are financially responsible for orders placed with Novartis or their distributors.

Novartis' Patient Assistance Program: (800) 589-0837. Complete instructions are located at:

<https://www.rxhope.com/PAP/info/PAPList.aspx?programid=1477&fieldType=programid>

An application may be downloaded from:

<https://www.rxhope.com/PAP/pdf/chiron.pdf> The completed application is faxed to the number at the top of the form. The provider should call RabAvert PAP directly at (800) 589-0837 to let them know they have faxed in an application. A PAP representative will approve or deny the application within 24 hours. Product will be shipped to the ordering provider overnight if the application is approved.

To qualify, patients:

- a. must be a United States citizen,
- b. have no medical insurance*, and
- c. demonstrate financial need, which is determined by considering income, current medical expenses, and other factors. There is not a way to determine in advance whether or not the patient will qualify.

Note: Novartis does not produce HRIG, so the provider will need to obtain the HRIG from the Sanofi Pasteur PAP program (see below).

2. **Sanofi Pasteur – Imogam® Rabies – HT** (Human Rabies Immune Globulin - HRIG) and **Imovax® Rabies** vaccine (Human Diploid Cell Vaccine – HDCV)

(800) VACCINE = (800/ 822-2463) or, for United States health care professionals only, go to VaccineShoppe.com

(<https://www.vaccineshoppe.com/index.cfm?fa=anon.piexpress>). If the provider does not already have an account with Sanofi Pasteur, they will have to establish one. Health care providers are financially responsible for orders placed with Sanofi Pasteur.

Sanofi Pasteur Patient Assistance Program (PAP): The provider should call the automated phone system (866) 801-5655 to receive faxed instructions and an application for rabies biologicals. The completed application form is all that needs to be faxed to Sanofi Pasteur. Both HRIG and rabies vaccine can be requested using the same form. No financial or other documentation is required to be submitted. The provider will not need to establish an account with Sanofi Pasteur to apply for this Program.

To qualify, patients:

- d. must be a resident of the United States,
- e. be under the care of a licensed healthcare provider,
- f. cannot be enrolled in, or qualify for, any form of medication reimbursement program or private insurance plan, and
- g. must have income at or below the 200% federal poverty level for their household size.

Sanofi will generally ship the order to the medical provider within 24 hours of receipt of the application.

3. **Talecris Biotherapeutics – HyperRAB™ S/D** (Human Rabies Immune Globulin – HRIG)

a. Talecris Customer Service **(800) 243-4153** or <http://www.talecris.com/us/talecris-us-hypermunes-distributors.htm>

b. Talecris Hypermunes™ Distributors:
i. ASD Healthcare - (800) 746-6273

1. Jan Barnett - (469) 365-7803;
jan.barnett@asdhealthcare.com
- ii. BDI Pharma Inc., Columbia, SC – (800) 948-9834
- iii. Cardinal Health SPD, Lavergne, TN – (866) 476-1340
- iv. FFF Enterprises, Temecula, CA: (800) 843-7477
- v. McKesson Plasma & Biologics, Lavergne, TN – (877) 625-2566
- vi. Novis Pharmaceuticals, Miami, FL – (800) 727-6711

If the provider does not already have an account with Talecris or with one of their distributors, they will have to establish one. Health care providers are financially responsible for orders placed with Talecris or their distributors.