



RABIES VACCINE SUPPLY RELEASE TO MEDICAL PROVIDERS

Central Michigan District Health Department

“Promoting Healthy Families, Healthy Communities”

For more information, please call: (989) 773-5921 ext. 8434

2012 E. Preston Avenue, Mt. Pleasant, Michigan 48858, www.cmdhd.org

August 28, 2008

Re: Limited Supply of Rabies Vaccine

Dear Physicians:

The Central Michigan District Health Department has been notified of a severe national rabies vaccine shortage.

Novartis, the only supplier of human rabies vaccine (RabAvert) in the United States recently indicated that the vaccine is being used at a higher rate than expected, which may affect the near-term availability for rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP).

There has been and continues to be conflicting information from different sources regarding how to obtain PEP for patients. Due to the shortage, providers will need an access code in order to obtain rabies vaccine directly from Novartis. Due to the overwhelming number of calls requesting vaccine, the Michigan Department of Community Health is asking all physicians to contact their local health department first. Please use the protocol outlined below to obtain vaccine for patients:

1. During regular business hours (8:30 a.m. – Noon; and 1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.) call the Central Michigan District Health Department (CMDHD) to discuss individual exposure and patient risk assessment.
 - CMDHD, Arenac County Branch Office: 989-846-6541, option 15
 - CMDHD, Clare County Branch Office: 989-539-6731, option 15
 - CMDHD, Gladwin County Branch Office: 989-426-9431, option 15
 - CMDHD, Isabella County Branch Office: 989-773-5921, option 15
 - CMDHD, Osceola County Branch Office: 231-832-5532, option 15
 - CMDHD, Roscommon County Branch Office: 989-366-9166, option 15
2. If the risk assessment indicates the need for PEP, the Central Michigan District Health Department will then call the Michigan Department of Community Health.
3. Michigan Department of Community Health staff will call the provider back with the Novartis access code.

If you are unable to reach the Central Michigan District Health Department, you may call the state communicable disease staff at 517-335-8165 (regular hours), or 517-335-9030 (after hours).

Further information regarding the vaccine shortage can be found at the CDC website:
http://cdc.gov/rabies/news/2008-08-15_rabvaxupdate.html.

Sincerely,

Robert Graham, DO, MPH, FAAP, Medical Director
Central Michigan District Health Department