



# Summary of Evidence to Recommendations Framework for Rabies Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis Vote

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**Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices**

**June 24, 2021**

# Recommendations passed

- ACIP recommends a 2-dose [0, 7 days] intramuscular rabies vaccine series in immunocompetent persons  $\geq 18$  years of age for whom rabies vaccine pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) is indicated
- ACIP recommends an intramuscular booster dose of rabies vaccine, as an alternative to a titer check, for immunocompetent persons  $\geq 18$  years of age who have sustained and elevated risk for only recognized rabies exposures (i.e., those in risk category #3 of rabies PrEP recommendations table\*). The booster dose should be administered no sooner than day 21 but no later than 3 years after the 2-dose PrEP series

\*\*Risk category table in next slide

| Risk category  | Nature of Risk   | Typical Population  | Disease Biogeography <sup>1</sup>   | Primary Immunogenicity PrEP | Long-term immunogenicity   |
|--|--|---|---|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>#1: Elevated risk for unrecognized and recognized exposures including unusual / high risk exposures (e.g., aerosol exposures and high concentration rabies virus exposures)</b> | Risk of virus exposure is continuous. Exposure is often in high concentrations and may go unrecognized, and can be unusual (e.g., aerosolized virus).  | Laboratory personnel working with live rabies virus in research, diagnostic, or vaccine production capacities (e.g., necropsy of suspect rabid animal or working with rabies virus cultures)  | Laboratory  | IM [0, 7 days]              | Titers every 6 months (booster if titer <0.5 IU/mL)  |
| <b>#2: Elevated risk of both unrecognized and recognized exposures</b>   | Risk of virus exposure is episodic. Exposure typically recognized but could be unrecognized. Unusual exposures do not occur                            | Persons who frequently handle bats or at frequent risk for coming into contact with bats because of entry into high density bat environments (e.g., bat biologist)  | All geographic regions where bats are a reservoir for rabies <sup>2</sup>   | IM [0, 7 days]              | Titers every 2 years (booster if titer <0.5 IU/mL)   |
| <b>#3: Elevated risk of recognized exposures that is sustained</b>   | Risk of virus exposure greater than for population at large. Exposure is a recognized one.   | <p>Persons who work with animals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Animal care professionals (e.g., veterinarians, technicians, animal control officers)</li> <li>Others who repeatedly handle terrestrial reservoir species (e.g., wildlife biologists, rehabilitators, and trappers)</li> <li>Spelunkers</li> <li>Veterinary students</li> </ul> <p>Travelers who will be performing activities (e.g., occupational or recreational) that put them at increased risk for exposure to rabid dogs and may have difficulty getting access to safe PEP (e.g., in rural area). Children may receive PrEP depending on the country to which they will travel (see CDC Traveler's Health destination pages)</p> | <p>All geographic regions where terrestrial<sup>3</sup> and non-terrestrial mammals are reservoirs for rabies</p> <p>Geographic regions internationally with endemic rabies</p> | <p>IM [0, 7 days]</p>       | <p>Titer once at 1-3 years (booster if titer &lt;0.5 IU/mL)</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Booster no sooner than day 21 and no later than year 3.</p> |
| <b>#4: Elevated risk of recognized exposures that is not sustained (i.e., ≤ 3 years)</b>   | Risk of virus exposure greater than for population at large. Exposure is a recognized one and only present for up to 3 years after primary vaccination | Same as for #3 but with risk ≤ 3 years (e.g., short-term volunteer providing hands-on animal care or a traveler with no risky travel planned beyond 3 years)  | Same as for #3  | IM [0, 7 days]              | None   |
| <b>#5: Low risk of exposure / (i.e., general population)</b>   | Risk of virus exposure is uncommon. Bite or non-bite exposure  | U.S. population at large  | Nationwide  | None                        | None   |

<sup>1</sup>For questions about the disease biogeography of the region where an exposure occurred, please contact your local or state health department

<sup>2</sup>Bats are reservoirs for rabies in all US states except Hawaii

<sup>3</sup>Terrestrial mammals are non-bat species (e.g., racoons, skunks, livestock)

# Proposed recommendations for June ACIP vote

- ACIP recommends a 2-dose [0, 7 days] intramuscular rabies vaccine series in immunocompetent persons <18 years of age for whom rabies vaccine pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) is indicated
- ACIP recommends an intramuscular booster dose of rabies vaccine, as an alternative to a titer check, for immunocompetent persons < 18 years of age who have sustained and elevated risk for only recognized rabies exposures (i.e., those in risk category #3 of rabies PrEP recommendations table\*). The booster dose should be administered no sooner than day 21 but no later than 3 years after the 2-dose PrEP series

\*Risk category table in previous slide

# PrEP in children

- Most common reason: Travel to canine rabies endemic countries
  - RIG is not available in some developing countries
  - Rabies vaccines may only be available in capital city resulting in a delay to PEP administration if travel is to rural regions
  - Children are at increased risk of multiple and severe bites including to face and neck
- Costs: PrEP for travel is typically paid out-of-pocket and can be costly because the 2008 ACIP PrEP schedule recommends 3 doses of vaccine over the course of 21-28 days



# Estimated\* PrEP use in the United States

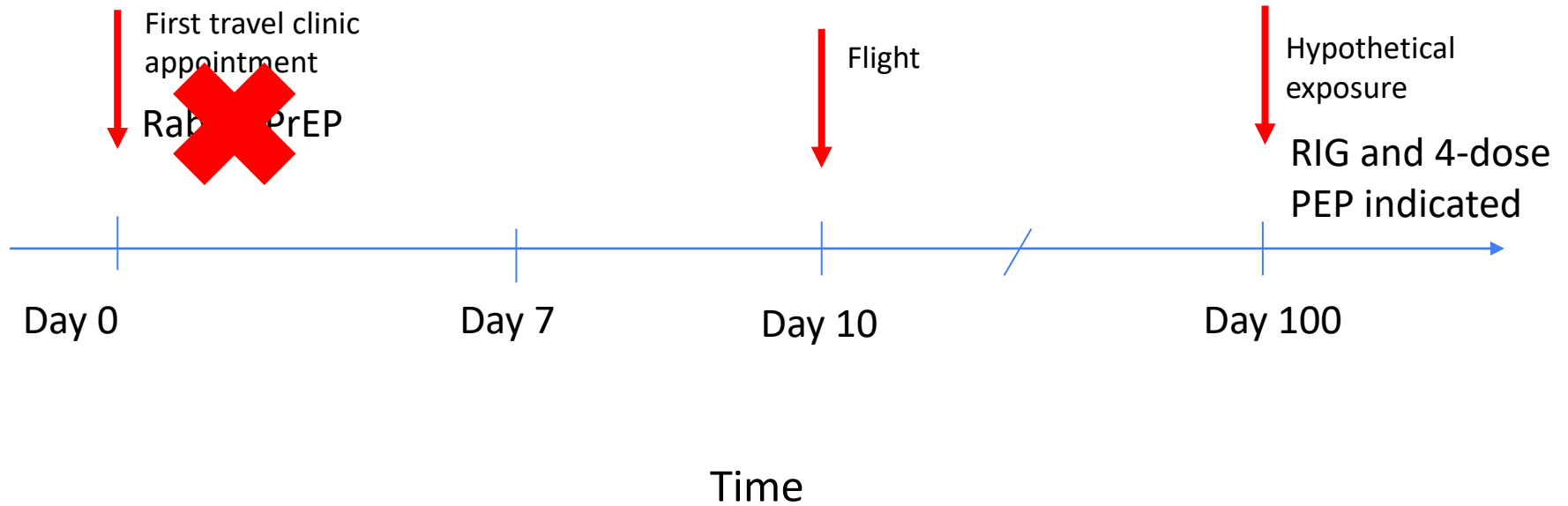
- Doses: 170,000 including 500 booster doses
- Categories of people receiving PrEP: 60,535 / year
  - Travelers and “other risk groups”: 41,117
  - Veterinary technicians: 13,860
  - Veterinary students: 3,500
  - Animal control: 1,178
  - Rabies laboratory personnel: 480
  - Wildlife biologists: 400

\* Mathematical model based on workforce statistics produced by Bureau of Labor Statistics and market research provided by Bavarian Nordic

# Conclusions from presentation about rabies PrEP and children during May ACIP meeting

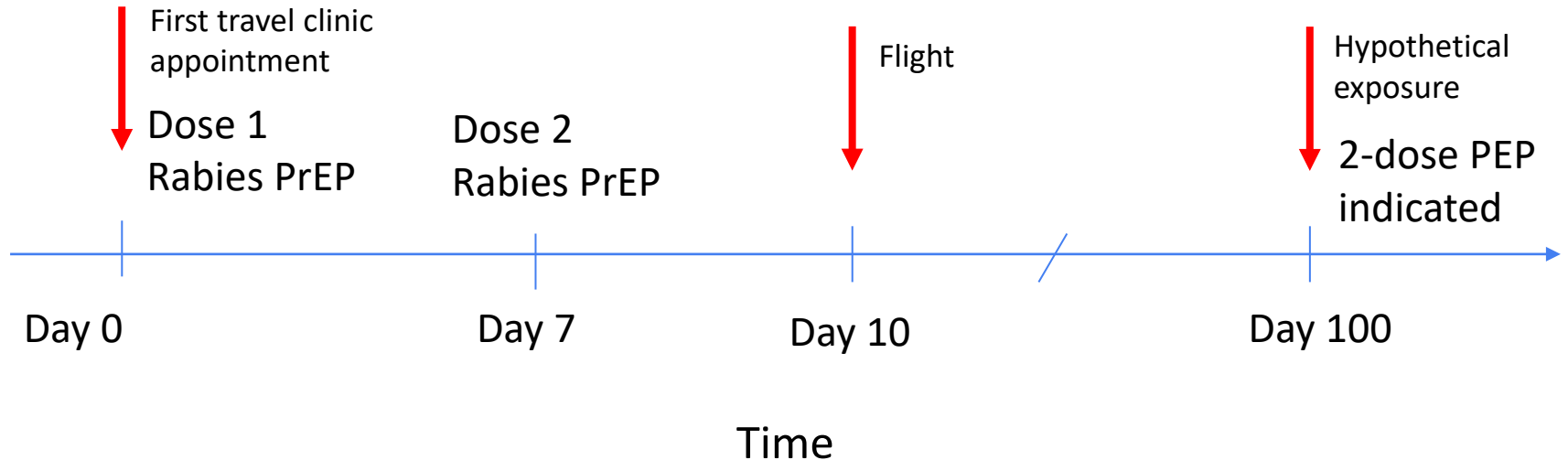
- Primary immunogenicity
  - No difference between primary immunogenicity in children compared to adults for any given schedule
  - One observational study included in GRADE table for 2-dose series showed 190 (100%) children aged 5-13 years mounted titers  $\geq 0.5$  IU/mL cut-off after primary series
- Long-term immunogenicity
  - Titers in children may stay higher for longer
  - Since boostability is not a concern for adults, it should not be a concern for children

# Impact of 3-dose series on PrEP administration





# Impact of 2-dose series\* on PrEP administration



\*Persons at sustained risk for rabies beyond 3 years, would receive titer at 1-3 years (booster if  $<0.5$  IU/mL) or booster no sooner than day 21 but no later than year 3 for long-term immunogenicity

# Implications of not aligning adult and pediatric PrEP recommendations

- Discordant recommendations
  - Parents may get vaccinated but children would not
  - Children are believed to be at greater risk than adults but would not be vaccinated
- Setting precedent
  - No previous rabies PrEP or PEP recommendations have involved a different series for adults compared to children
  - Differing recommendations would lead to incorrect concern that more doses are needed for children than for adults

**EtR for policy question #1: Primary  
immunogenicity**

# PrEP policy question #1

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
|                     | <b>Policy question: Should a two dose pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) series involving HDCV* or PCECV† IM [0, 7 days] replace the 3 dose series IM[0, 7, 21/28 days] for children# for whom rabies vaccine PrEP is recommended?</b> |
| <b>Population</b>   | Children for whom rabies vaccine PrEP is recommended  |
| <b>Intervention</b> | [0, 7 days] rabies vaccine PrEP schedule  |
| <b>Comparison</b>   | [0, 7, 21/28 days] rabies vaccine PrEP schedule   |
| <b>Outcome</b>      | Primary immunogenicity  |

\*Human diploid cell vaccine

† Purified chick embryo cell vaccine

#Persons <18 years of age

# Problem: Rabies and PrEP

- Rabies is nearly always fatal
- PrEP is important component of preventing human rabies in U.S.
- Yellow Book specifically mentions children are at a particular risk for rabies
  - Inquisitive nature and attraction to animals
  - Inability to read behavioral cues from dogs and other animals
  - Increased likelihood for severe bites to high-risk anatomic regions (e.g., head and face) because of short stature
- Children often travel to canine rabies endemic regions
- Rabies modern cell culture vaccines are effective

# EtR: Policy question #1

| Domains  | WG interpretation  |
|--|--|
| Benefits: How substantial are the desired anticipated effects      | Minimal; 100% of people seroconvert for proposed and for previous schedule |
| Harms: How substantial are undesirable anticipated effects?        | Minimal; No expected safety concerns                                       |
| Benefit / Harm: Do desirable effects outweigh undesirable effects? | Favors both  |
| Overall certainty of the evidence for the critical outcome(s)?     | Moderate certainty of evidence (Level 2) due to concerns for risk of bias  |

# PrEP Policy Question #1

## Summary of Randomized Control Trial Studies Reporting Outcome

| Authors last name, pub year | Age (years)                 | N intervention | N comparison | Vaccine      | Risk Ratio [95% CI]  | Study limitations (Risk of Bias) |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Endy, 2019                  | Mean 32.4,<br>Range 18 - 59 | 22             | 24           | PCEC, IM, ID | 1.00<br>[0.89, 1.12] | Some concerns <sup>1</sup>       |
| Soentjens, 2019             | Median 29.0,<br>Range NR    | 242            | 240          | HDCV, ID     | 1.00<br>[0.99, 1.01] | Some concerns <sup>2</sup>       |

<sup>1</sup>Allocation concealment not reported. Study did not blind participants or healthcare personnel; however, unlikely that co-interventions would have influenced the outcome.

<sup>2</sup>Method of randomization and allocation not reported. Study did not blind participants or healthcare personnel; however, unlikely that co-interventions would have influenced the outcome.

# PrEP Policy Question #1

## Summary of Observational Studies Reporting Outcome

| Authors last name, pub year | Age (years)                   | N intervention | N comparison | Vaccine        | Risk Ratio [95% CI] <sup>1</sup> | Study limitations (Study quality) <sup>2</sup> |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|----------------------------------|--|
| Ajjan, 1989                 | Mean 22,<br>Range 19-41       | 72             | 69           | HDCV, IM       | 1.00 [0.97, 1.03]                | 9/9 No concerns                                |
| Arora, 2004                 | Mean 26.2,<br>Range NR        | 44             | 44           | HDCV, IM       | 1.00 [0.96, 1.04]                | 9/9 No concerns                                |
| Briggs, 1996                | NR                            | 146            | 146          | HDCV, IM       | 1.00 [0.99, 1.01]                | 9/9 No concerns                                |
| Cramer 2016                 | Mean 36.7,<br>Range 18 – 65   | 371            | 364          | PCEC, IM       | 0.99 [0.98, 1.01] <sup>4</sup>   | 7/9 Minimal concerns                           |
| Hacibektasoglu, 1992        | Mean 20,<br>Range 18 – 24     | 30             | 30           | HDCV, IM       | 0.90 [0.79, 1.03]                | 9/9 No concerns                                |
| Jaijaroensup, 1999          | Mean NR,<br>Range 17 – 22     | 138            | 129          | PCEC, IM, ID   | 0.94 [0.87, 1.02] <sup>4</sup>   | 9/9 No concerns                                |
| Kitala, 1990                | NR                            | 37             | 37           | HDCV, IM       | 1.00 [0.95, 1.05]                | 8/9 Minimal concerns                           |
| Recuenco, 2017              | Median 41.0,<br>Range 20 - 62 | 60             | 59           | PCEC, IM, ID   | 1.00 [0.96, 1.05] <sup>4</sup>   | 9/9 No concerns                                |
| Sabchareon, 1999            | Mean 10,<br>Range 5 -13       | 190            | 190          | HDCV, IM       | 1.00 [0.99, 1.01]                | 7/9 Minimal concerns                           |
| Vodopija, 1986              | Mean NR,<br>Range 19 -25      | 49             | 46           | HDCV, PCEC, IM | 1.00 [0.94, 1.06] <sup>4</sup>   | 9/9 No concerns                                |

<sup>1</sup>Data from observational studies, where intervention and comparison data were taken from the same people at different time points, were analyzed using M-H Risk Ratio random effects procedure. Due to unavailable raw data on pairing, a matched analysis was not possible.

<sup>2</sup>Study quality for observational studies was assessed using the Newcastle Ottawa Scale.

<sup>3</sup>Age for total study population was not reported in this paper. Numbers in this cell are from the study arm from which data were extracted.

<sup>4</sup>Studies contained multiple arms relative to the analysis. Risk ratio reflects pooled analysis from eligible arms.



# Sabchareon et al

- HDCV in 190 school children
- After [0, 7 days] series, 100% of children had antibody titers  $\geq 0.5$  IU/mL

| Group, variable                              | Day 28 |
|--|--------|
| CPRV   |        |
| <i>n</i>                                     | 195    |
| Antibody titer $\geq 0.15$ IU/mL*            | 100    |
| Antibody titer $\geq 0.5$ IU/mL <sup>†</sup> | 100    |
| HDCV   |        |
| <i>n</i>                                     | 190    |
| Antibody titer $\geq 0.15$ IU/mL*            | 100    |
| Antibody titer $\geq 0.5$ IU/mL <sup>†</sup> | 100    |

Table from: Sabchareon A, Lang J, Attanath P et al. A new vero cell rabies vaccine: Results of a comparative trial with human diploid cell rabies vaccine in children. Clin Infect Dis. 1999; 29: 141-9.

# Table 4: Evidence table

## Immunogenicity after [0, 7 days] PrEP series with HDCV or PCECV

| Certainty assessment |              |              |               |              |             |                      | No of patients                           |   | Effect            |                   | Certainty | Importance |
|----------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|----------------------|--|---|-------------------|-------------------|-----------|------------|
| No of studies        | Study design | Risk of bias | Inconsistency | Indirectness | Imprecision | Other considerations | [0, 7 days] rabies vaccine PrEP schedule | [0, 7, 21/28 days] rabies vaccine PrEP schedule | Relative (95% CI) | Absolute (95% CI) |           |            |

### Immunogenicity (RCTs) (follow up: range 2 weeks to 3 weeks; assessed with: titer level above 0.5)

|                  |                   |                      |             |             |             |      |                  |                  |                        |  |                     |          |
|------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------|------------------|------------------|------------------------|--|---------------------|----------|
| 2 <sup>1,2</sup> | randomized trials | serious <sup>a</sup> | not serious | not serious | not serious | none | 264/264 (100.0%) | 264/264 (100.0%) | RR 1.00 (0.99 to 1.01) | 0 fewer per 1,000 (from 10 fewer to 10 more) | Level 2<br>Moderate | CRITICAL |
|------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------|------------------|------------------|------------------------|--|---------------------|----------|

### Immunogenicity (observational studies) (follow up range: 2 to 3 weeks, assessed with titer level above 0.5)

|                                      |                       |             |             |                          |             |                    |                   |                   |                        |  |                |          |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------------|--|----------------|----------|
| 10 <sup>3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12</sup> | observational studies | not serious | not serious | not serious <sup>b</sup> | not serious | strong association | 1090/1137 (95.9%) | 1081/1114 (97.0%) | RR 1.00 (0.99 to 1.00) | 0 fewer per 1,000 (from 10 fewer to 0 fewer) | Level 3<br>Low | CRITICAL |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------------|--|----------------|----------|

CI: Confidence interval; RR: Risk ratio

#### Explanations

a. Method of randomization and allocation not reported in Soentjens 2019 and allocation concealment not reported in Endy 2019. Neither study blinded participants or healthcare personnel; however, unlikely that co-interventions would have influenced the outcome.

b. Sabchareon 1999 study was conducted among children and the response may be more robust than in adults, which would potentially overestimate the immune response.

# EtR: Policy question #1

| Domains  | WG interpretation  |
|--|--|
| Values: Does the target population feel that desirable effects are large relative to undesirable effect? | Yes. Desirable effect is being vaccinated from rabies  |
| Values: Is there important uncertainty about or variability in how much people value the main outcomes?  | No. Target population values “protection” of children from rabies because this population is at a higher risk than adults during travel  |
| Acceptability: Is the intervention acceptable to key stakeholders?                                       | Yes. Shorter schedule preferred by patients & providers and will enable more children to be vaccinated before risky travel   |
| Resource Use: Is the intervention a reasonable and efficient allocation of resources?                    | Yes. Travel vaccination costs are typically out-pocket; fewer doses results in lower costs for individuals. Also, rabies vaccine shortages have occurred in U.S. so using fewer doses will result in efficient allocation of resources |
| Equity: What would be the impact on health equity?   | Probably increased because of decreased costs  |
| Feasibility: Is the intervention feasible to implement?  | Yes. Shorter series than current series so it can be more easily implemented before travel   |

# Balance of Consequences

- ❑ Undesirable consequences clearly outweigh desirable consequences in most settings
- ❑ Undesirable consequences probably outweigh desirable consequences in most settings
- ❑ Balance between desirable and undesirable consequences is closely balanced or uncertain
- ❑ Desirable consequences probably outweigh undesirable consequences in most settings
- ✗ Desirable consequences clearly outweigh undesirable consequences in most settings**
- ❑ There is insufficient evidence to determine the balance of consequences

# Proposed recommendation for vote

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## Recommendation

ACIP recommends a 2-dose [0, 7 days] intramuscular rabies vaccine series in immunocompetent persons <18 years of age for whom rabies vaccine pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) is indicated

## Work Group Interpretation

WG preference is for intervention

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**EtR for policy question #2: Long-term  
immunogenicity**

# PrEP policy question #2

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
|              | Policy question: Should an IM booster dose of rabies vaccine (*PCECV or †HDCV) be recommended as an alternative to a titer check no sooner than day 21 and no later than 3 years after the two dose pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) series IM [0, 7 days] for children <sup>§</sup> in the #3 risk category of people who receive PreP? |
| Population   | Children in the #3 risk category for whom rabies vaccine PrEP is recommended  |
| Intervention | Day 21- year 3 rabies vaccine booster after [0, 7 days] rabies vaccine PrEP schedule  |
| Comparison   | No rabies vaccine booster after [0, 7 days] rabies vaccine PrEP schedule  |
| Outcome      | Long-term immunogenicity  |

\*Human diploid cell vaccine  
† Purified chick embryo cell vaccine  
§ Persons < 18 years of age

# Problem: Long-term immunogenicity for rabies

- Some children may make trips to developing countries (e.g., to visit grandparents) beyond 3 years
- Immunology suggests that anamnestic response to an exposure occurs
- WHO approved 2-dose series for this population
- WG opted for very cautious recommendation to ensure long-term immunogenicity for [0, 7 days] series
  - Strong data for long-term immunogenicity only exists for up to 3 years
  - Data shows that titer at  $\geq 1$  year, is marker of long-term immunogenicity
  - WG proposed
    - Titer at 1-3 years (and boost accordingly) OR
    - Booster no sooner than day 21 and no later than year 3



# Long-term immunogenicity reported in recently published article\*

- 6 persons who received [0, 7 days] IM series, were evaluated after 10-11 years
  - 3 male; 3 female
  - Ages 34-46
  - 5 had titers  $\geq 0.5$  IU/mL
  - All had 4-fold increase in titers after booster
- More data expected about long-term immunogenicity of 2-dose series because WHO recommendations made in 2018

\*De Pijper et al, Long-term memory response after a single intramuscular rabies booster vaccination, 10-24 years after primary vaccination. Journal of Infectious Diseases. Epub January 2021

## EtR: Policy question #2

| Domains  | WG interpretation  |
|--|--|
| Benefits: How substantial are the desired anticipated effects      | Moderate <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Flexibility in receiving titer check (and only booster if indicated) versus a booster over a broad time period i.e., as soon as day 21 and as late as 3 years; 100% of subjects mounted anamnestic response to booster at 1-3 years</li></ul> |
| Harms: How substantial are undesirable anticipated effects?        | Minimal; No expected safety concerns   |
| Benefit / Harm: Do desirable effects outweigh undesirable effects? | Favors intervention  |
| Overall certainty for evidence: effectiveness                      | Low certainty of evidence (Level 3)  |

# PrEP Policy Question #2

## Table 3: Summary of Studies Reporting Outcome

| Authors last name, pub year | Age (years)              | N intervention | N comparison               | Comparator vaccine | Risk Ratio [95% CI]                | Study limitations (Study quality <sup>3</sup> ) |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Endy, 2019                  | Mean 32.4, Range 18 - 59 | 42             | No comparison <sup>1</sup> | PCEC, IM           | Not able to calculate <sup>2</sup> | 8/9 Mild concerns                               |
| Soentjens, 2019             | Median 29.0, NR          | 368            | No comparison <sup>1</sup> | HDCV, IM           | Not able to calculate <sup>2</sup> | 8/9 Mild concerns                               |

<sup>1</sup>No comparison data available for this policy question available in these studies.

<sup>2</sup>No comparison data available to calculate effect estimate.

<sup>3</sup>Study quality for observational studies was assessed using the Newcastle Ottawa Scale.

# Table 4: Evidence table

## Duration of immunogenicity after [0, 7 days] PrEP series with HDCV or PCECV

| Certainty assessment   |                       |              |               |              |             |                      | Impact   | Certainty      | Importance |
|--|-----------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|----------------------|--|----------------|------------|
| No of studies  | Study design          | Risk of bias | Inconsistency | Indirectness | Imprecision | Other considerations |  |                |            |
| <b>Anamnestic response after booster (follow up: range 1 weeks to 3)</b> |                       |              |               |              |             |                      |  |                |            |
| 2 <sup>1,2</sup>   | observational studies | not serious  | not serious   | not serious  | not serious | none                 | A historical control of trial participants receiving 2 doses of rabies vaccine resulting in 100% immunogenicity (n=264) at 1-3 weeks following vaccination schedule (Endy 2019, Soentjens 2019) : 410/410 (100%) seroconversion with booster | Level 3<br>Low | CRITICAL   |

CI: Confidence interval

## EtR: Policy question #2

| Domain  | WG interpretation  |
|---|--|
| Target population sentiments: Does the target population feel desirable effects are large relative to undesirable effects       | Probably yes <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Stakeholders want to avoid acquiring highstakes infection; children have many more years ahead of them making future travel more likely than an older adult who is vaccinated</li><li>Booster provides reassurance that outweighs any inconvenience</li></ul> |
| Target population sentiments: Is there important uncertainty about or variability in how much people value the main outcome(s)? | No: Target population values “protection” from rabies and there is likely no important variability   |
| Acceptability: Is the intervention acceptable to stakeholders?  | Yes: Stakeholders accustomed to accommodating third dose of rabie vaccine and will find it acceptable to have booster as an option, particularly given the flexibility for when that booster can be given  |
| Resources: Reasonable and efficient allocation of resources?  | Yes: Persons who do not have sustained risk for rabies will not require the booster; additionally, because of the flexibility in the time point for this booster, it can be arranged at a time when there is no shortage of vaccines   |

## EtR: Policy question #2

| Domains   | WG interpretation   |
|---|---|
| Equity: What would be the impact on health equity?      | Increased: Some PrEP costs are out-of-pocket. Because titer is offered as option, inequity could be resolved by choosing that option. Additionally, children without sustained risk for rabies will not need booster or titer and those who do require it, could defer receiving (and paying) up to 3 years later diffusing the costs over a longer time period |
| Feasibility: Is the intervention feasible to implement? | Yes: Administrators could opt to schedule booster dose at the time of primary vaccination if there is a concern for travelers not remembering to receive booster dose   |

# Balance of Consequences

- ☐ Undesirable consequences clearly outweigh desirable consequences in most settings
- ☐ Undesirable consequences probably outweigh desirable consequences in most settings
- ☐ Balance between desirable and undesirable consequences is closely balanced or uncertain
- ☐ Desirable consequences probably outweigh undesirable consequences in most settings
- ✗ Desirable consequences clearly outweigh undesirable consequences in most settings**
- ☐ There is insufficient evidence to determine the balance of consequences

# Proposed recommendation for vote

| Recommendation   | Work Group Interpretation                |
|--|--|
| <p>ACIP recommends an intramuscular booster dose of rabies vaccine, as an alternative to a titer check, for immunocompetent persons <math>\geq 18</math> years who have sustained and elevated risk for only recognized rabies exposures (i.e., those in risk category #3 of rabies PrEP recommendations table). The booster dose should be administered no sooner than day 21 but no later than 3 years after the 2-dose PrEP series.</p> | <p>WG preference is for intervention</p> |



# Proposed recommendations for June ACIP vote

- ACIP recommends a 2-dose [0, 7 days] intramuscular rabies vaccine series in immunocompetent persons <18 years of age for whom rabies vaccine pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) is indicated
- ACIP recommends an intramuscular booster dose of rabies vaccine, as an alternative to a titer check, for immunocompetent persons < 18 years of age who have sustained and elevated risk for only recognized rabies exposures (i.e., those in risk category #3 of rabies PrEP recommendations table <sup>f</sup>). The booster dose should be administered no sooner than day 21 but no later than 3 years after the 2-dose PrEP series

<sup>f</sup>Risk category table in next slide

| Risk category  | Nature of Risk   | Typical Population  | Disease Biogeography <sup>1</sup>   | Primary Immunogenicity PrEP | Long-term immunogenicity   |
|--|--|---|---|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>#1: Elevated risk for unrecognized and recognized exposures including unusual / high risk exposures (e.g., aerosol exposures and high concentration rabies virus exposures)</b> | Risk of virus exposure is continuous. Exposure is often in high concentrations and may go unrecognized, and can be unusual (e.g., aerosolized virus).  | Laboratory personnel working with live rabies virus in research, diagnostic, or vaccine production capacities (e.g., necropsy of suspect rabid animal or working with rabies virus cultures)  | Laboratory  | IM [0, 7 days]              | Titers every 6 months (booster if titer <0.5 IU/mL)  |
| <b>#2: Elevated risk of both unrecognized and recognized exposures</b>   | Risk of virus exposure is episodic. Exposure typically recognized but could be unrecognized. Unusual exposures do not occur                            | Persons who frequently handle bats or at frequent risk for coming into contact with bats because of entry into high density bat environments (e.g., bat biologist)  | All geographic regions where bats are a reservoir for rabies <sup>2</sup>   | IM [0, 7 days]              | Titers every 2 years (booster if titer <0.5 IU/mL)   |
| <b>#3: Elevated risk of recognized exposures that is sustained</b>   | Risk of virus exposure greater than for population at large. Exposure is a recognized one.   | <p>Persons who work with animals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Animal care professionals (e.g., veterinarians, technicians, animal control officers)</li> <li>Others who repeatedly handle terrestrial reservoir species (e.g., wildlife biologists, rehabilitators, and trappers)</li> <li>Spelunkers</li> <li>Veterinary students</li> </ul> <p>Travelers who will be performing activities (e.g., occupational or recreational) that put them at increased risk for exposure to rabid dogs and may have difficulty getting access to safe PEP (e.g., in rural area). Children may receive PrEP depending on the country to which they will travel (see CDC Traveler's Health destination pages)</p> | <p>All geographic regions where terrestrial<sup>3</sup> and non-terrestrial mammals are reservoirs for rabies</p> <p>Geographic regions internationally with endemic rabies</p> | IM [0, 7 days]              | <p>Titer once at 1-3 years (booster if titer &lt;0.5 IU/mL)</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Booster no sooner than day 21 and no later than year 3.</p> |
| <b>#4: Elevated risk of recognized exposures that is not sustained (i.e., ≤ 3 years)</b>   | Risk of virus exposure greater than for population at large. Exposure is a recognized one and only present for up to 3 years after primary vaccination | Same as for #3 but with risk ≤ 3 years (e.g., short-term volunteer providing hands-on animal care or a traveler with no risky travel planned beyond 3 years)  | Same as for #3  | IM [0, 7 days]              | None   |
| <b>#5: Low risk of exposure / (i.e., general population)</b>   | Risk of virus exposure is uncommon. Bite or non-bite exposure  | U.S. population at large  | Nationwide  | None                        | None   |

<sup>1</sup>For questions about the disease biogeography of the region where an exposure occurred, please contact your local or state health department

<sup>2</sup>Bats are reservoirs for rabies in all US states except Hawaii

<sup>3</sup>Terrestrial mammals are non-bat species (e.g., racoons, skunks, livestock)

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# Questions?

For more information, contact CDC  
1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)  
TTY: 1-888-232-6348 [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.