



# THE NEW WHO POSITION ON RABIES VACCINES

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## Driving progress towards rabies elimination & 2<sup>nd</sup> international PARACON

Johannesburg, South Africa 12-14 September 2018

L. Knopf

Neglected Zoonotic Diseases

Department of the Control of Neglected Tropical Diseases

WHO Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland



**World Health  
Organization**

# Terms of reference WHO Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization rabies WG :

First rabies working group under SAGE, established in June 2016.

1. Assess **evidence** and **country practices** in the use of **human rabies vaccine and RIG**
2. **Emphasize evidence of implementation** of ID use of rabies vaccines;
3. Reduced **duration /nb of doses for PEP & PrEP schedules**;
4. **PrEP recommendations** and the cost-effectiveness of the interventions;
5. **Revisit the WHO position for RIG and monoclonal antibody use** to improve access to care /public health impact;
6. **Consider economic burden of rabies and cost-effectiveness of vaccination including** modelling
7. Potential of **new vaccines** to improve delivery.



# SAGE – Rabies WG Membership

## SAGE Members

- Kate O'Brien, (Chair of Working Group), USA.
- Terry Nolan, Australia.

## Experts

- Ahmed Be-Nazir, Bangladesh
- Lucille Blumberg, South Africa
- Deborah Briggs, USA
- Mathurin Tejiokem, Cameroon
- Luzia Queiroz, Brazil
- Naseem Salahuddin, Pakistan
- Gade Sampath, India
- Arnaud Tarantola, Cambodia / New Caledonia
- Mary Warrell, UK
- Henry Wilde, Thailand



WHO secretariat

# Review & update rabies immunization policy to best evidence and practice

- In depth analysis of new evidence (July 2016-July 2017):
  - i. Systematic scientific literature reviews
  - ii. Information from reports and programmes
  - iii. Data supporting a change in practice / underpin established new practice
- Report to SAGE (October 2017)
- Publication of the WHO position paper on rabies vaccines considering feasible and safe recommendations and cost-effective practices (April 2018).



# New WHO position on rabies immunization:

## *Safety - programmatic savings - feasibility*

Topic	2010	2018
<b>PEP regimen duration</b>	3-4 weeks 4-5 visits	<b>1-2 weeks</b> <b>3-4 visits</b>
<b>Vaccine savings PEP</b>	ID: 0.8 ml IM: 5 ml	ID: <b>-20%</b> (0.6 ml) IM: <b>-20%</b> (4 ml)
<b>RIG infiltration mode</b>	Wound + distant IM	Wound only <b>- 40%</b> RIG vials <b>- 80%</b> RIG volume/ person
<b>RIG allocation</b>	All category III exposures	High risk cat. III exposures <b>- 60 to 90%</b> need RIG

# the 2018 WHO position on rabies immunization

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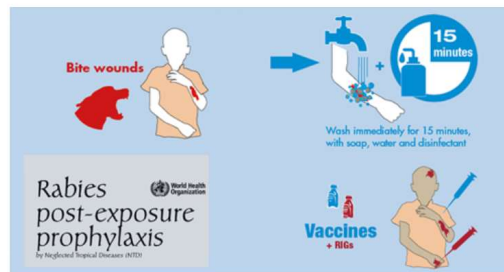
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## WHO announces new rabies recommendations

15 January 2018 | Geneva -- The new WHO recommendations for rabies immunization supersede the 2010 WHO position on pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) for rabies. These updated recommendations are based on new evidence and directed by public health needs that are cost-, dose- and time-sparing, while assuring safety and clinical effectiveness. In addition, new guidance on prudent use of rabies immunoglobulin (RIG) is provided.



The following sections summarize the main points of the updated WHO position as endorsed by the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on immunization (SAGE) at its meeting in October 2017. The full version of the WHO position on rabies vaccines and immunoglobulins will be published in the *Weekly Epidemiological Record* in April 2018.



### Read the publication

- Rabies vaccines and immunoglobulins: WHO position  
Summary of 2017 updates under final review

### More information

- Rabies website

2018, 93, 201–220



World Health Organization  
Organisation mondiale de la Santé

Weekly epidemiological record  
Relevé épidémiologique hebdomadaire

20 APRIL 2018, 93th YEAR / 20 AVRIL 2018, 93<sup>e</sup> ANNÉE

No 16, 2018, 93, 201–220

<http://www.who.int/wer>

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### Rabies vaccines: WHO position paper – April 2018

#### Introduction

In accordance with its mandate to provide guidance to Member States on health

### Vaccins antirabiques: Note de synthèse de l'OMS – avril 2018

#### Introduction

Conformément à son mandat qui est de donner aux États Membres des conseils sur les

[http://www.who.int/rabies/resources/who\\_wer9316/en/](http://www.who.int/rabies/resources/who_wer9316/en/)

More: [www.who.int/rabies/en](http://www.who.int/rabies/en)