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SECTION 1 OF 2

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SIC: N6230

SUBJ: RABIES POST-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS POLICY

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//N06230//SUBJ/RABIES POST-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS POLICY//

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REF/A/DOC/BUMEDINST 6220.13/28MAY2004//

REF/B/DOC/CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (CDC)/19MAR10/

NARR/REF (A) IS BUMED INSTRUCTION 6230.13, RABIES PREVENTION AND CONTROL, IDENTIFYING POST-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS POLICY. REF (B) IS CDC PUBLICATION MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY WEEKLY REPORT (MMWR) GUIDELINES FOR USE OF A REDUCED (4-DOSE) VACCINE SCHEDULE FOR POSTEXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS TO PREVENT HUMAN RABIES, VOL 59:NO RR-2.//RMKS/1. THIS MESSAGE HAS BEEN COORDINATED WITH HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS, HEALTH SERVICES. TRANSMISSION TO MARINE CORPS ACTIVITIES IS AUTHORIZED. PLEASE ONPASS TO AL 6947.

2. MILITARY TREATMENT FACILITIES NEED TO PREPARE FOR AN INFLUX OF PATIENTS REPORTING AN ANIMAL EXPOSURE OCCURRING AFTER 1 MARCH 2010 AND REQUIRING A DETERMINATION IF RABIES POSTEXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS (PEP) IS REQUIRED. A SOLDIER BITTEN BY A FERAL (WILD) DOG WHILE DEPLOYED IN AFGHANISTAN RECENTLY DIED FROM RABIES. DURING THE

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INVESTIGATION, MANY PERSONNEL ADMITTED TO UNREPORTED ANIMAL BITES OR SCRATCHES. THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (DOD) AND EACH SERVICE WILL BE MAKING A CONCERTED EFFORT TO PUBLICIZE THE NEED FOR ALL PERSONNEL TO BE EVALUATED FOR ANY UNREPORTED ANIMAL BITE OR SCRATCH THAT OCCURRED AFTER 1 MARCH 2010.

3. PER REF (A), THE ALMOST ALWAYS FATAL OUTCOME OF HUMAN RABIES CASES NECESSITATES ROBUST SURVEILLANCE FOR ANIMAL BITES. WHILE THE ACTUAL RISK OF CONTRACTING RABIES FROM AN ANIMAL EXPOSURE IS OFTEN LOW, ANY RISK MUST BE BALANCED AGAINST THE FATAL OUTCOME IF PEP IS NOT PROVIDED. PEP HAS PROVEN TO BE VERY EFFECTIVE IN PREVENTING HUMAN RABIES CASES. WHILE PEP SHOULD BE PROVIDED IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE EXPOSURE, IT CAN STILL PROVIDE SOME PROTECTION AGAINST RABIES MANY

MONTHS AFTER THE INCIDENT. THEREFORE, DOD IS RECOMMENDING PEP BE STARTED EVEN UP TO 18 MONTHS AFTER A POTENTIAL RABIES ANIMAL EXPOSURE IS IDENTIFIED.

4. RABIES IS TRANSMITTED FROM ANIMALS TO HUMANS WHEN THE VIRUS IS INTRODUCED INTO BITE WOUNDS, OPEN CUTS IN THE SKIN, OR ONTO MUCOUS MEMBRANES. AN ANIMAL LICKING A PERSON'S MUCOUS MEMBRANES OR OPEN

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WOUNDS ON THEIR SKIN WOULD BE A RABIES RISK. DOGS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR 90% OF HUMAN EXPOSURE TO RABIES. HOWEVER, CATS, FOXES, FERRETS, JACKALS, SKUNKS, AND OTHER CARNIVORES ARE ALSO A RISK. ALL INJURIES SUSTAINED FROM BATS OR WAKING TO A BAT IN THE SLEEPING QUARTERS IS CONSIDERED A RABIES RISK. OTHER MAMMALS SUCH AS CHIPMUNKS, MICE, RATS, LIVESTOCK, RABBITS, AND SQUIRRELS CAN BE INFECTED WITH RABIES BUT ARE UNLIKELY TO PASS RABIES TO A HUMAN.

5. ALL PERSONNEL PRESENTING WITH AN ACUTE INJURY CAUSED BY AN ANIMAL OR PREVIOUSLY UNREPORTED/UNDOCUMENTED ANIMAL INJURY WILL BE EVALUATED FOR RABIES RISK AND PEP.

A. EVALUATE AND TREAT ACUTE INJURIES PER REFS (A) AND (B) TO INCLUDE A DD 2341 BITE REPORT AS WELL AS MEDICAL EVENT REPORTING IN THE NAVY DISEASE REPORTING SYSTEM INTERNET (NDRSI) IF PEP INITIATED.

B. EVALUATE AND TREAT PREVIOUSLY UNREPORTED/UNDOCUMENTED INJURIES THAT OCCURRED WITHIN THE PREVIOUS 18 MONTHS BY ASSESSING LEVEL OF RISK. IF HIGH RISK ANIMAL INVOLVED AND BROKEN SKIN, BITE, UNKNOWN BAT EXPOSURE, OR MUCOUS MEMBRANE CONTACT WITH OPEN SKIN WOUNDS OCCURRED, THEN HIGHLY CONSIDER PEP WITH RABIES IMMUNOGLOBIN (RIG)

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WITH THE RABIES VACCINE REQUIRED AT DAY 0, 3, 7, 14. A DD 2341 BITE REPORT SHOULD BE COMPLETED AS WELL AS MEDICAL EVENT REPORTING IN NDRSI IF PEP INITIATED.

C. RESTART THE 4 VACCINE SERIES FOR PERSONNEL STARTED ON PEP IN THE LAST 18 MONTHS, BUT DO NOT SHOW DOCUMENTATION OF COMPLETING THE SERIES AND ARE NOT ABLE TO GIVE A STRONG HISTORY OF COMPLETING ALL 4 DOSES.

D. DRAW A RABIES TITER AND VERIFY THAT IT IS POSITIVE FOR PERSONNEL STARTED ON PEP IN THE LAST 18 MONTHS, BUT DO NOT SHOW DOCUMENTATION OF COMPLETING THE SERIES, HOWEVER, PROVIDE A CONVINCING HISTORY THAT ALL 4 DOSES WERE ACTUALLY COMPLETED APPROPRIATELY. DOCUMENT IN THEIR MEDICAL RECORD THE HISTORY AND DECISION TO DRAW TITER ONLY.

E. A CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINE ADDRESSING PREVIOUSLY UNREPORTED/UNDOCUMENTED INJURIES CAUSED BY ANIMALS IS CURRENTLY BEING DEVELOPED. IN THE MEANTIME, ASSESS THE RABIES RISK IN PERSONNEL REPORTING PREVIOUS ANIMAL INCIDENTS AND PROVIDE PEP WITH RIG IF THERE IS ANY CONCERN FOR RABIES EXPOSURE. LEAN TOWARDS OVERTREATING VICE UNDERTREATING PAST EXPOSURES DUE TO THE LETHALITY OF RABIES IN THE RARE CASES IT HAS BEEN PASSED TO HUMANS.

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F. ALL INDIVIDUALS DESCRIBED ABOVE, WHETHER ACTIVE DUTY PERSONNEL, GUARD OR RESERVES IN ANY STATUS, INDIVIDUALS SEPARATED FROM SERVICE, DOD CIVILIANS, OR RETIREES SHOULD REPORT TO THE PATIENT ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT OF A MEDICAL TREATMENT FACILITY (MTF) TO DETERMINE ELIGIBILITY TO RECEIVE CARE WITHIN THE MTF.

- G. FOR THOSE INDIVIDUALS NOT NEAR AN MTF, ELIGIBLE BENEFICIARIES MAY ALSO USE THEIR TRICARE BENEFIT FOR EVALUATION AND TREATMENT. ANY VETERAN WHO HAS DEPLOYED TO A COMBAT ZONE IN THE PAST 5 YEARS IS ALSO ELIGIBLE FOR CARE AT DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL HOSPITALS AND CLINICS.
- H. INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE NOT CURRENTLY ELIGIBLE FOR CARE AND/OR WHO LIVE MORE THAN 100 MILES FROM A MTF OR VETERANS ADMINISTRATION (VA) HOSPITAL OR CLINIC SHOULD CALL THE WOUNDED SOLDIER AND FAMILY HOTLINE AT (800) 984-8523 OR DSN: 312-421-3700 FOR COORDINATION OF THEIR EVALUATION AND CARE AT THE NEAREST MTF.
- I. ALL CURRENT OR FORMER CONTRACTORS OR CONTRACTOR EMPLOYEES CAN CALL THE WOUNDED SOLDIER AND FAMILY HOTLINE AT (800) 984-8523 OR DSN: 312-421-3700 FOR ASSISTANCE. PROVISION OF SERVICES TO CONTRACTORS WILL BE SUBJECT TO THE GUIDANCE IN DODI 3020.41 (CONTRACTOR PERSONNEL AUTHORIZED TO ACCOMPANY THE US ARMED FORCES) AND CONTINGENT UPON ARRIVAL BY UNDERSECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR PERSONNEL AND READINESS (USD P&R).
6. NAVY MARINE CORPS PUBLIC HEALTH CENTER HAS MADE WEB LINK AVAILABLE WITH DETAILED RABIES EXPOSURE PROVIDER GUIDANCE, [HTTP://WWW.NMCPHC.MED.NAVY.MIL/DISEASES_CONDITIONS/RABIES.ASPX](http://www.nmcpHC.MED.NAVY.MIL/DISEASES_CONDITIONS/RABIES.ASPX)
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7. POC FOR THIS MESSAGE IS CDR ROBERT LIPSITZ, 202-762-3495 OR 202-445-0485, DSN 762-3495, ROBERT.LIPSITZ@MED.NAVY.MIL.

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