



# Rabies Work Group Update

**ACIP Meeting**

**October 29, 2020**

**Sharon Frey, MD, FACP, FIDSA**

**Chair, ACIP Rabies Work Group**

# ACIP rabies sessions until now: PrEP

- **October 2018:** Introduced formation of WG
- **October 2019 and February 2020**
  - Reviewed vaccine safety, and work group considerations for changes to PrEP series
  - Presented systematic review of published literature about primary immunogenicity and duration of immunogenicity of IM [0, 7 days] PrEP series involving HDCV and PCECV vaccines
  - Gathered feedback from committee about data needed in order to consider shortening PrEP series from IM [0, 7, 21/28 days] to IM [0, 7 days]

# WG's Focus since last meeting

- **Rabies is nearly always fatal**
  - No proposed changes that could be inferior to current IM [0, 7, 21/28 days] series
- **Consider improvements to current PrEP recommendations**
  - Supported by robust data
  - Provide protection for full duration of recipient's life
  - Consider what is known about compliance, acceptability, and reasons for current guidance

# Work Group Activities Since Last ACIP Meeting

- **PrEP: Comprehensively re-reviewed PrEP in context of committee's feedback**
  - Reviewed purpose of PrEP and expectations for data if changes proposed
  - Deliberated over policy questions that can be confidently proposed that are 1) improvement from current recommendations 2) grounded in data
  - Leveraged WG members' rabies subject matter expertise in immunology, historical basis of current recommendations, travel medicine, clinical practice, public health, veterinary medicine, and considerations made by WHO in 2018 update of PrEP recommendations
  - Completed GRADE and EtR framework for 2 policy questions
- **PEP: Completed discussions about newly licensed RIG products and data to support any changes to anatomic site(s) of RIG administration**

# Challenges faced by WG

- Some previous recommendations were based on expert opinion
- Current recommendations are legacy from extremely conservative approach to less optimal rabies vaccines
- Limited data to modify recommendations that are known to be excessive
- Diverse recipients of PrEP including research laboratorians, bat biologists, veterinarians, animal control experts, spelunkers, and travelers to canine-rabies endemic countries
  - Difficult to create “one-size fits all” recommendations given differing types and levels of risk
- Compliance to current ACIP recommendations has been of concern
  - E.g., veterinarians known to be noncompliant with titer checks
  - E.g., For many professions, PrEP is not covered by employer or insurance

# WG's goal for today

- Present product of WG deliberations
- Obtain feedback and discussion from committee
- Answer tough questions
- Determine whether proposed policy questions can be voted on during February meeting

# Today's Agenda: Rabies PrEP

- Background and summary of WG considerations
- Minimum antibody titer and implications on ACIP recommendations: Susan Moore (KSU)
- More fundamentals of rabies immunology: Deborah Briggs (KSU)

----- Break

- Review of policy questions and systematic review about PrEP schedule and presentation of GRADE
- Evidence to recommend framework
- Summary and next steps

# Work Group Members

## ACIP Members

*Sharon Frey (chair)*

*Lynn Bahta*

## Liaison Representatives

*AAP- Elizabeth Bennett*

*AAFP- James Stevermer*

*NACCHO- Matt Zahn*

*APhA- Karl Hess*

*NACI- Julie Emili and Linlu Zhao*

*FDA- Paula Agger and Robin Levis*

*NASPHV- Katie Brown and Sally Slavinski*

*NIH- Eun-Chung Park*

*APHL-Michael Pentella*

## Invited Consultants

*Subject Matter Expert- Deborah Briggs*

*Subject Matter Expert- Susan Moore*

*Travel medicine- David Shlim*

*Emergency Medicine – David Moran*

## CDC

*Rabies Work Group leads – Jesse Blanton  
and Agam Rao*

*Division of Global Migration and*

*Quarantine- Kristina Angelo*

*Immunization Safety Office – Pedro Moro*



# Thank you!

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

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