Human Rabies Post-Exposure Prophylaxis Algorithm

Marin County Public Health
3240 Kerner Blvd., San Rafael, CA 94901
Hours: Monday - Friday 8:30am - 5:00pm
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After hours (415)499-7238
**Marin County Human Rabies Post-exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) Algorithm**

Did the person have contact with saliva or brain tissue of a mammal through a bite, open wound or mucous membrane. Or, was the person exposed to a bat? (1)

- NO: Do NOT Administer PEP
- YES:
  - Was exposure to a bat, raccoon, skunk, coyote or fox? (2)
    - NO: FAX Bite Report to Marin Humane Society ~ AND ~ CONSIDER the following factors in deciding on PEP:
      - Bite was unprovoked
      - Location of bite – head/neck vs extremities
      - Number of bites and severity of bites/extent of exposure to animal saliva
      - Observed poor health of animal
      - Medical attention to wounds delayed for days
      - Victim highly anxious about rabies
    - YES: FAX Bite Report to Marin Humane Society ~ AND ~ Consider delaying PEP during 10 day animal quarantine /observation period.
  - YES:
    - Was exposure to dog, cat or ferret?
      - NO: Do NOT Administer PEP
      - YES:
        - Was exposure to a rodent, e.g. squirrel, mouse, rat, hamster?
          - NO: Do NOT Administer PEP
          - YES: FAX Bite Report to Marin Humane Society ~ AND ~ Consider delaying PEP during 10 day animal quarantine /observation period.
  - NO: Administer PEP

NOTES:
1) **Bat bites** often cannot be detected so CDC suggests considering PEP if the bat can’t be tested and contact is uncertain, or if the patient was sleeping, intoxicated or cognitively challenged, or an unobserved child. Approx. 9% of tested bats in Marin are rabid.

2) **Unprovoked bites** are rare, typically characterized by the animal crossing neutral space to attack. **Provoked bites** often include: activity related to feeding animal, injured or frightened animal, entering animal’s territory, handling or petting, breaking up animal fights, and running, bicycling or skateboarding near an animal.