

Surry County Health & Nutrition Center

Rabies Titer Testing

Manual: Rabies Control	Applicable Signatures/Title
	Program Director:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Program Policy	Supervisor:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Program Procedure	Supervisor:
<input type="checkbox"/> Management/Department-wide Policy	Director of Nursing:
<input type="checkbox"/> Personnel/Fiscal Policy	Medical Director:
	Health Director:
Effective Date: 6/09	Board of Health Chair:
Revised: 9/11	QA Coordinator:
Reviewed: 3/10; 7/11	<input type="checkbox"/> Reviewed by QA Committee

Policy: Surry County Health & Nutrition Center will provide serologic testing for individuals who are in the CDC Frequent Risk of Rabies Exposure category, or for individuals who have completed pre or post exposure rabies prophylaxis, and have a written order from their physician stating due to possible inadequate antibody response due to immune-suppression, they will need verification of antibody formation.

Individuals who are considered to be in the frequent risk of rabies exposure category include veterinarians and staff, animal control staff, and wildlife officers. Persons in this category will have a serum sample tested for rabies antibody every two years.

Individuals who fall into this category, and have a serum rabies titer of less than complete neutralization at a 1:5 serum dilution, should receive a single booster dose of the vaccine. Individuals who receive testing to determine antibody response due to immunosuppression will be tested 2 weeks after completion of vaccination.

Routine post-vaccination serologic testing will not be performed.

Animal Control Staff will be tested every other year on their birthday when receiving their annual PPD.

Purpose: To provide Rabies Titer testing to individuals who are in the frequent risk of rabies exposure category in order for them to perform their job safely, and without risk of rabies infection; to test individuals who have completed pre or post exposure rabies prophylaxis, are immune-compromised, and may not have adequate antibody response.

- **Definitions:** SCHNC: Surry County Health Nutrition Center
 CDC: Center for Disease Control & Prevention
 PPD: Purified Protein Derivative (substance used to test for Tuberculosis)
 Immunosuppression: Prevention of formation of immune response
 Immunocompromised: Having an immune system incapable of reacting to pathogens
- **Applicable Laws, Rules, and References:** SCHNC Rabies Pre-exposure Policy and Procedure; Standing Orders for Rabies Titers; SCHNC Rabies Control Manual; CDC MMWR Human Rabies Prevention-United States, 1999.

- **Responsible Person(s):** Immunization Nurse, Laboratory Staff, Primary Care Clinic provider and/or Medical Director

Procedure:

1. Individuals who have received pre or post exposure vaccination rabies prophylaxis, and have been determined by their physician to need rabies titer testing, will present to SCHNC with a written order from their physician for testing approximately two weeks after last dose of rabies vaccine.
2. Blood will be obtained for the test by the SCHNC Laboratory Staff and sent for Rabies Antibody Titer Testing.
3. Immunization clerical staff will sign patient in and take employee to Immunization clinic.
4. Immunization nurse will be responsible for placing lab orders on chart and sending employee to laboratory for blood draw.
5. Lab staff will return results to immunization nurse. The nurse will place results on patient's chart and forward to Primary Care Clinic (PCC) provider for review.
6. If Rabies Titer is below 1:5, then the Immunization nurse will recommend to the ordering physician, or SCHNC PCC provider, that the patient should receive a booster dose of rabies vaccine per CDC guidelines.
7. After reviewing, the PCC provider will return chart to immunization nurse. Immunization nurse will notify Animal Control supervisor of titer results, and/or the physician ordering testing.
8. Immunization nurse will contact Animal Control staff on their birthday every other year to come to the Immunization clinic to receive the Rabies Titer and their annual PPD. (See separate policy for annual PPD testing.)
9. SCHNC Medical Director or PCC provider will be consulted to obtain an order for post-serologic vaccination for those individuals without a Primary Care Physician.

References, Reference Plans and Policies: Rabies Immunization Consent Form; Rabies Titer Testing Consent Form; Rabies Potential Exposure Policy

Non-compliance to this policy could result in a non-compliance notice and/or subject to the disciplinary process.