

## **! Rabies, Possible Exposure**

Merlin reporting code = 07101  
Case report form (CRF): [Confidential Rabies Post Exposure Prophylaxis](#)  
**MERLIN EXTENDED DATA REQUIRED**

### **Clinical description**

A rabies exposure is considered any bite, scratch, or other contact in which saliva or nervous tissue of a suspect or known rabid animal enters an open or fresh wound, or comes in contact with mucous membranes by entering the eye, mouth, or nose of another animal or person

### **Laboratory criteria for case classification**

N/A

### **Case classification**

#### Confirmed:

Bite or other significant exposure of a human by a confirmed or suspected rabid animal, including non-human primates.

### **Comments**

Only bites or other exposures where rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) is recommended should be reported as rabies, possible exposure (Merlin reporting code=07101). Do not report animal bites where PEP is not recommended. However, please report the following exceptions: if PEP is not recommended but the patient still requests to receive PEP, and if you are unable to determine whether PEP was recommended for a particular case. For these exceptions, please use the Case Notes in Merlin to explain the particular situation.

All *monkey* bites, including those where PEP is not recommended, should be reported as herpes B virus, possible exposure (Merlin reporting code=07103).

### **Notes**

The Rabies Prevention and Control in Florida Guidebook is updated annually and should be considered the most up-to-date resource for rabies related questions. To locate the guidebooks, please visit the following website: <http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/rabies/index.html>.

Page 34 includes the definition and interpretation of what constitutes a rabies exposure.

Page 35 includes information regarding risk assessment of potential exposures.

Page 37 provides a patient management chart with a bulleted summary.

Additional information can be found on the website: <http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/rabies/index.html>.

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