



Merlin disease code: 07101 Rabies, Possible Exposure

[Paper case report form](#)

Merlin extended data required

Background

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.

Clinical criteria for case classification

Not applicable.

Laboratory criteria for case classification

Not applicable.

Epidemiological criteria for case classification

Not applicable.

Case classification

Confirmed:

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

Criteria to distinguish a new case from previous reports

Not applicable.

Comments

Only bites or other exposures where rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) is recommended should be reported as rabies, possible exposure (Merlin disease 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 disease code: 07103).

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: 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: www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/rabies/index.html.