

105 CMR 335.000: TREATMENT OF PERSONS EXPOSED TO RABIES

Section

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335.001: Purpose

The purpose of 105 CMR 335.000 is to regulate the treatment of persons exposed to rabies.

335.002: Authority

105 CMR 335.000 is adopted under authority of M.G.L. c. 111, § 3, and c. 140, § 145A.

335.003: Citation

105 CMR 335.000 shall be known and may be cited, as 105 CMR 335.000: *Treatment of Persons Exposed to Rabies*.

335.010: Scope

The board of health is under no obligation to furnish vaccine and treatment regardless of the opinion of the attending physician, unless the case is covered by 105 CMR 335.100. 105 CMR 335.000 should not be interpreted as a flat recommendation that all persons so bitten by or exposed to *animals* should be given treatment, but rather as those conditions under which boards of health are required to furnish the vaccine and treatment if the circumstances surrounding the case indicate to the physician that the patient is in need of treatment.

335.100: Cases Requiring Vaccination and Treatment

- (A) Antirabic vaccine and antirabic treatment shall be furnished by the board of health for all persons bitten by or intimately exposed to the saliva of:
- (1) A clinically rabid animal.
 - (2) An animal the head of which was found positive for rabies on laboratory examination.
 - (3) An animal the head of which was found suspicious for rabies on laboratory examination.

- (4) An animal the head of which was in such condition on reaching the laboratory that it could not be examined, and was, therefore, classified as unsatisfactory for examination.
- (5) An animal which could not be restrained for a clinical observation period of 14 days after the date of biting or exposure.
- (6) An animal which was killed without being held for observation and without subsequent laboratory examination of the head.

(B) Antirabic vaccine and antirabic treatment shall be furnished by the board of health for all persons bitten on the head or in cases with severe multiple lacerations. Treatment shall be discontinued at the end of seven days if the *animal* by which the patient was bitten is still well and is kept under observation for seven additional days, treatment to be resumed if the *animal* shows signs of rabies during this second seven day period.

335.200: Certification Required Before Vaccine is Furnished

Before antirabic vaccine is furnished to a physician to treat a patient, said physician shall certify in writing to the board of health the name and address of the patient to be treated, the severity of the bite or degree of exposure, the place where the bite or exposure occurred and the identity of the animal responsible for the biting if said is obtainable.

335.300: Notice Required When Patient is Non-Resident of Community Where Bitten

If antirabic vaccine and antirabic treatment are given because of a bite or exposure occurring in another community than that in which the patient resides, notice of said facts shall be forwarded by the board of health to board of health and animal inspector of the community where said biting or exposure occurred, and to the county commissioners of the county, other than Suffolk, in which said latter community is located.

335.400: Permissible Treatment Charges

No charges shall be paid for services other than for the administration of the vaccine.

335.500: Patient's Statement

The board of health may require a statement made under penalty of perjury and signed by the patient to be treated, or in the case of a minor, by his parent or guardian or person immediately responsible for his supervision, stating the place where said person was bitten or exposed and the identity of the *animal* if obtained.

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

105 CMR 335.000: M.G.L. c. 111, § 3; M.G.L. c. 140, § 145A.