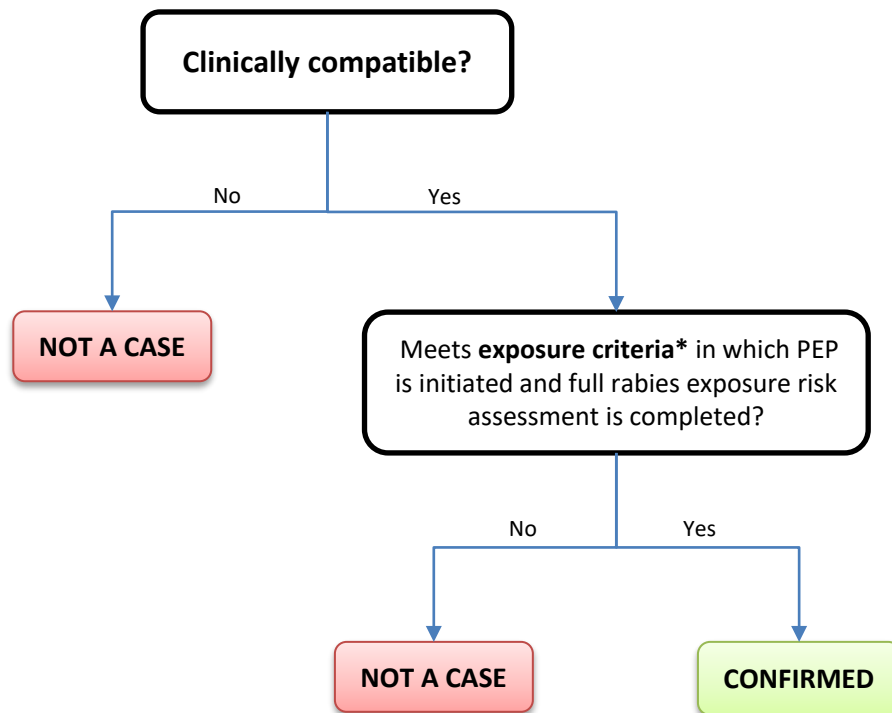


# Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) against Rabies



## \*Exposure is defined as one or more of the following:

- Any bite, scratch, or other situation in which saliva or CNS tissue of a rabid or potentially rabid animal could have entered an open or fresh wound or encounter a mucous membrane by entering the eye, mouth, or nose
- Inadvertent bat contact or circumstances in which bat contact cannot be ruled out
- Recipient of organ donations from suspected or known human cases of rabies

### Clinical Description:

Rabies is a zoonotic disease caused by RNA viruses in the family *Rhabdoviridae*, genus *Lyssavirus*. Rabies virus is present in the saliva and central nervous system (CNS) tissue of rabid mammals. If a person has been exposed (or reasonably presumed to have been exposed) to a rabid (or potentially rabid) animal, then rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) is warranted for the prevention of human rabies. PEP can be in the form of anti-rabies vaccine, human rabies immunoglobulin (HRIG), or both depending on the circumstances.

### Critical Reporting Elements and Comments:

- Specify the implicated animal species, if known.
- Specify the anatomical site of exposure.
- Document the circumstances under which the case patient was potentially exposed including deployment and duty exposure, occupational activities, environmental exposures, or other high-risk activities.
- Note the patient's rabies immunization history.
- Specify the reasons for discontinuation if PEP was discontinued.
- Report all cases receiving PEP that met the exposure criteria, even if PEP is subsequently terminated due to the animal being deemed rabies free.