

Dear Insurance Provider,

This letter is written to clarify and support the need for rabies immunization for \_\_\_\_\_, who is enrolled in the Veterinary Nursing Distance Learning (VNDL) program at the Purdue University College of Veterinary Medicine.

The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines place veterinarians and veterinary technicians/nurses (as well as veterinary students and veterinary technician/nursing students) in rabies Risk Category #3 because these groups of professionals/students experience a sustained, elevated risk for rabies exposure. If infected with the disease treatment is expensive and usually futile. Pre-exposure rabies immunization is highly effective in preventing fatal rabies disease in humans.

It is routine for health insurance providers to cover the cost of this immunization series, as it is a requirement for veterinary education and practice supported by national medical guidelines.

The CPT and ICD-10 codes used for each dose of the immunization process typically include:

- CPT code 90675 (rabies vaccine, intramuscular)
- CPT code 90471 (immunization administration, 1 vaccine)
- ICD-10 diagnosis code Z23 (encounter for immunization)

The following rabies vaccine guidelines were implemented by the CDC in May 2022 based on recommendations from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practice (ACIP). ACIP is a committee comprised of medical and public health experts that develop recommendations on how to use vaccines to control diseases in the United States. People are considered fully vaccinated after they have completed their initial rabies vaccine series (2-dose series given at days 0 and 7) plus either (a) a 1-dose booster between 3 weeks and 3 years following the first vaccine in the 2-dose series or (b) a one-time titer check after 1 year and up to 3 years following the first 2-dose series time frame to be effective ([https://www.cdc.gov/rabies/prevention/pre-exposure\\_vaccinations.html](https://www.cdc.gov/rabies/prevention/pre-exposure_vaccinations.html)).

Should you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Veterinary Nursing office via email at [vetnursing@purdue.edu](mailto:vetnursing@purdue.edu).

Sincerely,



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