



Protocol for accessing immunoglobulin blood products for public health use in Western Australia

This document describes the process for accessing immunoglobulin blood products for post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) for public health disease control activities in Western Australia.

Normal Human Immunoglobulin (NHlg) and Zoster Immunoglobulin (Zlg) supply is governed by the National Blood Authority, and NHlg and Zlg is supplied by the Australian Red Cross Lifeblood Service.

Human Rabies Immunoglobulin (HRlg) supply is governed by WA Health Public Health Physicians (PHPs) and the Department of Health Communicable Disease Control Directorate (CDCD).

Refer to Appendix I for details of NHlg, HRlg and rabies vaccine cache stock.

Process for accessing NHlg

For regional orders where NHlg cache stock is held:

1. The PHP completes the [NHlg form](#) to approve release of cache stock that is positioned in regional hospitals.
2. The PHP ensures the 'in-hospital stock' option is 'ticked', and the hospital delivery address is entered, so that NHlg cache stock is replenished.
3. The PHP sends the completed form to the WA contact details shown on the NHlg form.
4. **For urgent requests**, the PHP must phone Lifeblood on 9325 3030 **after** the form has been sent.

For regional or metropolitan orders where NHlg is not held:

1. The PHP or the treating physician completes the [NHlg form](#) with the required delivery address.
2. The PHP sends the completed form via the WA contact details shown on the NHlg form.
3. **For urgent requests**, the PHP must phone Lifeblood on 9325 3030 **after** the form has been sent.

Lifeblood will release and deliver products in accordance with the delivery address and instructions noted on the form.

The PHP **must** include their personal emergency contact details for any queries that may arise.

For the National Blood Authority (NBA) policy on access, supply and use of NHlg visit.

<https://www.blood.gov.au/NHlg>.

Process for accessing Zlg

The treating clinician (provider) can liaise directly with the Australian Red Cross Blood Service in WA (Lifeblood) by phoning the **24 hour service on 9421 2800 and provide details** of the case and provider delivery details.

Lifeblood will act quickly to review the patient case details and ascertain if Zlg is required, and the best process for access.

The PHP may provide advice and support to the provider in this process, as necessary.

Lifeblood will either:

- confirm that the provider is an Approved Health Provider (AHP) and request that the provider submits the Zlg order through their National Blood Authority [BloodNet](#) system account, or
- if not an AHP, send the provider a manual form to complete (document number FRM-00144). Lifeblood will liaise directly with the provider and create a new AHP retrospectively where applicable.

Lifeblood will review, approve and package the Zlg ready for pick-up.

For routine orders, Lifeblood has regular courier runs to most Perth metro hospitals Monday to Saturday, and to regional hospital pharmacies overnight.

For urgent and life-threatening orders, Lifeblood will request that the **provider (or support by the PHP on behalf of provider) arranges product collection from 290 Wellington Street** to be couriered to their premises, at the cost of the provider (or PHU).

Where Zlg is not approved (or unavailable), Lifeblood and the provider will liaise regarding an alternative treatment, and the PHP may be consulted further.

Note: PHPs would only need to have their own AHP account if there is an ongoing requirement for direct administration to patients by the PHP/PHU.

Process for HRlg

All cases require completion of an [exposure assessment and vaccine order form](#).

The process to access HRlg is as follows:

For REGIONAL or METROPOLITAN orders where HRlg cache is held:

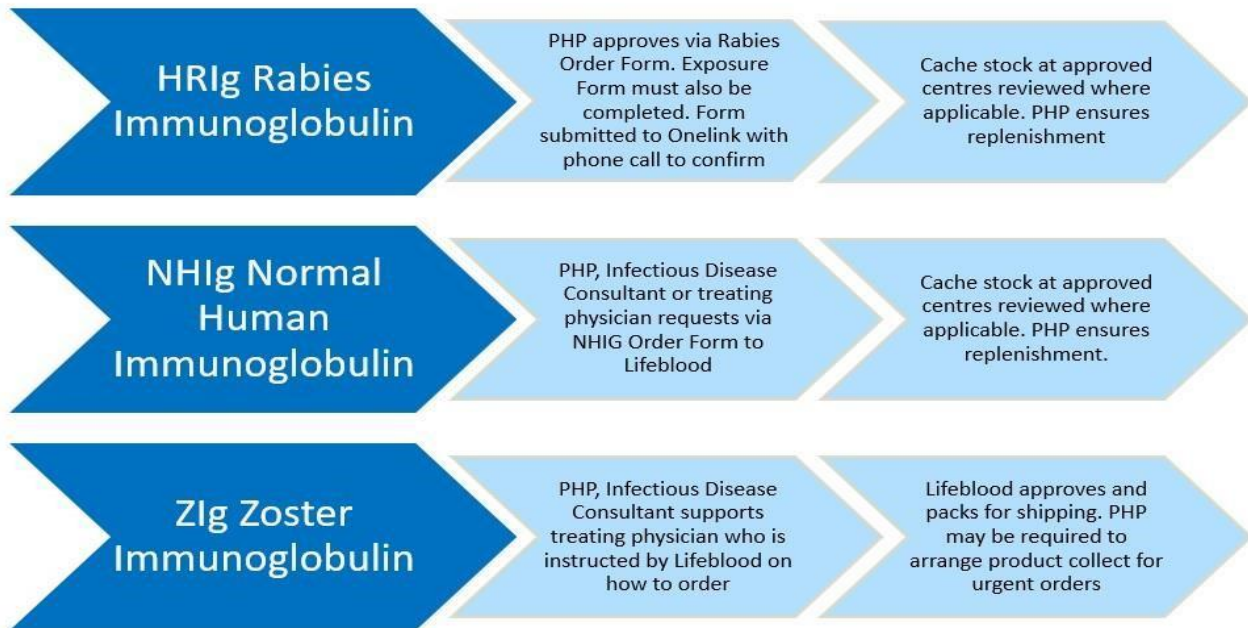
1. The PHP approves use of HRlg and rabies vaccine by providing their name as the approver on the order form to replenish cache stock, including contact details for any queries that may arise.
2. When approving, the PHP will review cache stock to ensure target levels are maintained (see *Appendix I* and/or view cache stock and forms at http://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/N_R/Rabiesand-otherlyssavirus-including-bat-lyssavirus).
3. The PHP sends the order form to the WA Health Onelink warehouse to replenish cache stock, via the contact details on the form.
4. The PHP sends a copy of the order with the exposure form to vaccineorders@health.wa.gov.au for recording purposes.

CDCD Vaccine Orders oversees the process of despatching rabies PEP via Onelink, including routine checks of cache stock at each approved facility and maintains case records.

For REGIONAL or METROPOLITAN orders where HRlg is not held:

1. The PHP approves use of HRlg and rabies vaccine by providing their name as the approver on the order form and completing the delivery address and treating physician details.
2. The PHP sends the order form to the WA Health Onelink warehouse; during office hours, phone Onelink on 1800 014 207 for urgent orders or follow up if no response within one hour of ordering. **After Hours, always phone 0459 398 111 to confirm the order.**
3. The PHP must ensure their contact details are included for any queries that may arise.
4. The PHP sends a copy of the vaccine order form with the exposure form to vaccineorders@health.wa.gov.au for recording purposes.

Process Summary



Further information

HRIG and rabies vaccine use in public health:

http://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/N_R/Rabies-and-other-lyssavirus-including-bat-lyssavirus

NHIG and ZIG and their use in public health:

<https://immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au/vaccine-preventable-diseases/varicella-chickenpox>

<https://www.blood.gov.au/NHlg>

https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/F_I/Hepatitis-A

https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/J_M/Measles

https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/N_R/Poliomyelitis

Contact details for Public Health Units:

<https://www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/publichealthunits>

Appendix I – WA Department of Health approved facilities for NHIG and HRIG

WA Department of Health Approved Facilities for Immunoglobulin Products Normal Human Immunoglobulin (NHlg) and Human Rabies Immunoglobulin (HRIG)						
Tertiary Hospital / Facility	Location and access	Phone No.	Maximum Cache Stock			
			NHlg 5mL vial	NHlg 2mL vial	HRlg 2mL vial (per 15kg)	Vaccine 1 mL vial
Perth Children's Hospital	24 hours a day, 7 days a week Pathwest Transfusion Medicine Laboratory	6383 4015	4	2	0	0
Albany Hospital	Mon-Fri 0800-1630 Stock in Pharmacy After hours access available	9892 2269	10	3	8	4
Broome Hospital	Mon-Fri 0800-1600 Stock in Pharmacy After hours access available	9194 2821	10	3	12	8
Bunbury Hospital	Mon-Fri 0800-1630 Stock in Pharmacy After hours access available	9722 1416	10	3	0	4
Geraldton Hospital	Mon-Fri 0800-1600 Stock in Pharmacy After hours access available	9956 2234	10	3	0	2
Hedland Health Campus	Mon-Fri 0800-1600 Stock in ED, access to pharmacist	9174 1334	10	3	0	2
Kalgoorlie Hospital	Mon-Fri 0800-1700 Stock in Pharmacy After hours access available	9080 5655	10	3	0	4
Kununurra Hospital	Mon-Fri 0800-1600 Stock in ward pharmacy store After hours access available	9166 4388	10	3	6	4
Karratha Health Campus	Mon-Fri 0800-1600 Stock in Pharmacy After hours access available	9144 7766	-	-	0	4
Travel Medicine Centre 200 St Georges Terrace, Perth	Mon-Thu 0830-1700, Fri 0830-1630 Sat depends on doctors availability	9321 7888	-	-	9	4
Total in WA State			74	23	99	52

This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with disability.

© Department of Health 2022

Copyright to this material is vested in the State of Western Australia unless otherwise indicated. Apart from any fair dealing for the purposes of private study, research, criticism or review, as permitted under the provisions of the *Copyright Act 1968*, no part may be reproduced or re-used for any purposes whatsoever without written permission of the State of Western Australia.