

Rabies Post-Exposure Prophylaxis, Montana 2014-2017



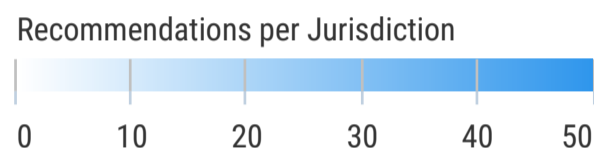
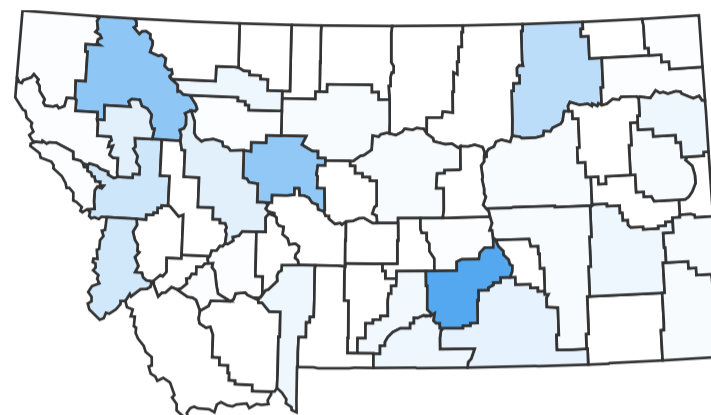
Rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) is indicated after exposures to a potentially rabid animal when rabies infection is known, or cannot be ruled out. PEP consists of four doses of rabies vaccine given with one dose of human rabies immune globulin (HRIG).

Rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) was recommended by public health to be given to 199 residents and 17 out of state travelers in 2017 in 33 local health jurisdictions.

Average cost of rabies PEP series (HRIG with four doses of vaccine), medication only, from 2014-2017 based on Medicaid filing data (n=61):

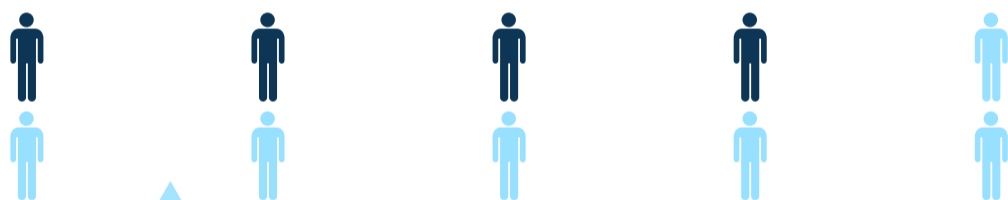
\$10,748

Maximum charged for Medicaid recipients - \$36,669

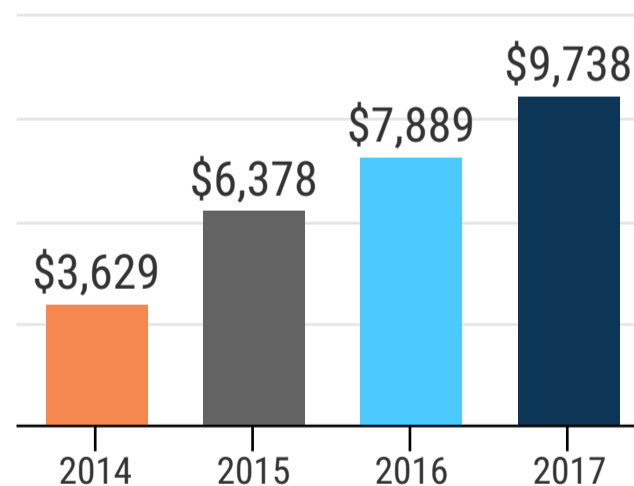


The cost of rabies PEP varies greatly from person to person, primarily because HRIG is given based on weight of the individual being treated. Cost may also vary due to medical setting and facility mark-up. The HRIG component of the series is the most expensive portion. Wholesale costs are approximately \$320 to \$330 per milliliter without pharmacy markup.

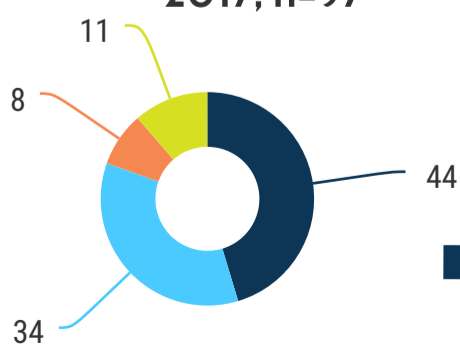
HRIG Average Cost per Person, Medicaid Filing Data 2014-2017



About 4 out of every 10 people refused rabies post-exposure prophylaxis when it was recommended by public health in 2017. Most did not give a reason for refusing, but expense was cited as the reason for refusal in 13% of cases according to public health rabies PEP reports.



Locations where rabies PEP was administered due to a bat exposure in 2017, n=97



● PEP in ER/Hospital
● PEP with HD Only
● Refused PEP
● PEP in ER/HD

Of the 216 PEP recommendations made by local public health jurisdictions in 2017, 97 of those exposures involved bats. These bat exposures did not result in wounds requiring care for infection and/or closure and did not necessitate an ER visit. In many cases, PEP can be given in a variety of settings; including the ER, clinic and/or health department or combination of settings saving money and other resources.

Average cost of rabies PEP series (HRIG with four doses of vaccine), medication only, when given exclusively in a health department (n=8):

\$4,486 (Approximately \$6,200 less than the overall average)

