STEP 2. Physician Assessment

♦ Determine if exposure did occur
♦ Determine if Rabies Post Exposure Prophylaxis is warranted *immediately* or if need for **rPEP** can **WAIT** until after conclusion of Health Unit Investigation
♦ If SMDHU has completed their rabies exposure investigation and has provided client with a "Seek Medical Advice Letter", conduct **FINAL** determination if Rabies PEP is required for client

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Physicians Assessment: Potential Rabies Exposure and need for Rabies Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (rPEP)

simcoe muskoka DISTRICT HEALTH UNIT

PRIOR to using ANY rPEP from hospital inventory OR to request rPEP delivery, you MUST speak to a SMDHU Public Health Inspector:

M-F 8:30-4:30   1-877-721-7520 ext. 8894   After Hours: 1-888-225-7851

Did an exposure to rabies potentially occur?

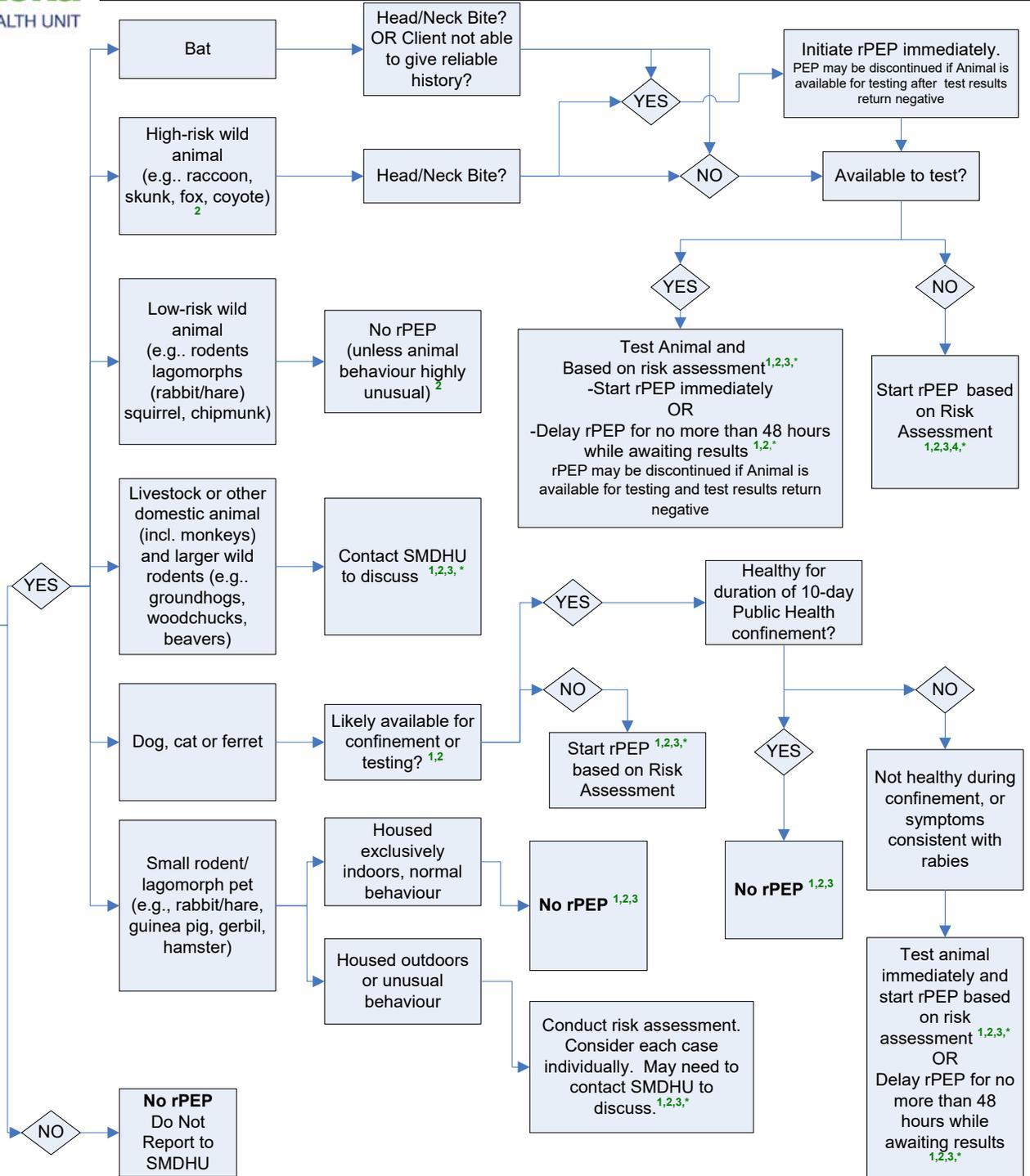☐ Was the patient bitten or scratched by a mammal?

Report all mammal to human exposures to SMDHU

☐ Did the patient's open wound, broken skin from cuts or scratches or mucous membrane come in contact with saliva or tissue from the central nervous system of a mammal?

☐ Did the patient have direct contact with a bat such that a bite or scratch cannot be ruled out? (Patient can't give reliable history? Child? Cognitively impaired?)

Face Bites, high risk exposures and other Physician Consults should **also be reported by phone** Immediately

FAX 705-725-8132
Using the SMDHU Rabies & Animal Exposure Incident Report

The attending physician ultimately makes the decision to administer rPEP [1,2]
Note: rPEP includes/may include both rabies immunoglobulin (RIG) and rabies vaccine

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*Contact SMDHU for release of rPEP.
1. **Management of Patients with Suspected Rabies Exposure (PHO, 2017)**
2. **Rabies Prevention and Control Protocol, 2020, Ministry of Health**
3. **Management of Potential Rabies Exposures Guideline, 2020, Ministry of Health**
4. **Medical recommendations of SMDHU Medical Officer of Health considering local conditions and consultation with Ministry of Health**
Additional Physician Resources at: http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/JFY/PCPortal/PCPCategories/EnvironmentalHealth

SMDHU 403-j
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