

## What is Immune Globulin?

- Immune Globulin (Ig) is a blood product that is purified out of the plasma part of blood.
- Ig provides immediate, short-term protection against certain diseases such as measles, rabies, tetanus, and some hepatitis infections.
- Ig products contain antibodies taken from donated human blood. Antibodies are proteins that a person's immune system makes to fight infections caused by viruses or bacteria.

## Who should Receive Ig?

- A Health Care provider (HCP) may recommend Ig to a person who has been exposed to certain infectious diseases, including measles, rabies, tetanus, and some hepatitis infections.
- Ig is made to protect an exposed person against specific infections in the short-term, and will either prevent the infection from occurring or make it less severe.

## How does Ig work?

- Once a person receives Ig, it works quickly to 'tag' invading bacteria and viruses to help white blood cells 'see' and destroy them. This preventative treatment is also called *prophylaxis*.
- Ig is often given with an immunization to help a person's immune system develop antibodies for long-term protection against the disease.

## Is Ig safe to receive?

- Ig products are among the safest blood products available. A detailed questionnaire is used to screen plasma donors each time before they donate.
- Donated plasma is tested to be sure it is negative for viruses including HIV, Hepatitis B, and Hepatitis C.
- Ig undergoes many processing and testing steps to reduce the risk of infection transmission.

## Who should not receive Ig?

- People with a condition called isolated IgA deficiency, or who have had a life-threatening reaction to a previous dose of Ig or any of its components should not receive Ig, unless the benefit outweighs the risk as determined by an authorized healthcare provider. In such a case, Ig should be given with caution and under close observation.

## How is Ig given?

- Ig is given into the muscle with an injection needle. In some cases, such as an animal bite, some Ig can also be injected around the bite into the fatty layer under the skin.
- It is important to stay in the clinic for at least **15 minutes** once Ig has been administered to monitor for the

IF YOU CHOOSE TO PRINT THIS DOCUMENT, IT IS VALID ONLY ON DAY OF PRINT.

Page 1 of 2

Document #: LSM-903 v #: 2

*Healthy People, Healthy Saskatchewan*

development of any side effects.

**What are signs and symptoms of a reaction from receiving Ig?**

- It is common to experience muscle soreness or stiffness at the injection site.
- Less commonly, side effects of receiving Ig include a mild headache, mild fever, chills or nausea.
- Serious side effects are extremely rare. An example would be a severe allergic reaction, with a rash covering most of your body or life threatening swelling and difficulty breathing.
- If you think you are experiencing a serious side effect, please contact your health care provider **immediately**.

**For more information, call the Disease Control Department of Public Health at  
306-655-4612**

**References**

1. BC Centers for Disease Control . Immune Globulin. HealthLinkBC. <http://www.healthlinkbc.ca/>. Accessed October 2016.
2. Canadian Immunization Guide: Part 5 – Passive Immunization. Government of Canada. <http://healthycanadians.gc.ca>. Accessed October 2016.

IF YOU CHOOSE TO PRINT THIS DOCUMENT, IT IS VALID ONLY ON DAY OF PRINT.

Page 2 of 2

Document #: LSM-903 v #: 2

*Healthy People, Healthy Saskatchewan*