

IDRS Infectious Disease Reporting System

Disease Reporting 24 Hours a Day Columbus Public Health and Franklin County Public Health

TO: All Central Ohio Emergency Medicine Care Providers

FROM: Columbus Public Health and Franklin County Public Health

DATE: Sunday, October 07, 2012

RE: CLINICAL GUIDANCE AND UPDATES FOR OUTBREAK OF FUNGAL MENINGITIS FOLLOWING EPIDURAL SPINAL INJECTION

In light of the national outbreak of fungal meningitis following epidural spinal injections, Columbus Public Health and Franklin County Public Health want to inform central Ohio area emergency care providers that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently updated its clinical guidelines.

Clinicians who are treating patients with suspected disease following steroid injection with products prepared by the implicated company should be aware of the updated recommendations and case definitions, which will continue to be kept up-to-date as more information becomes available, and can be found at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/HAI/outbreaks/meningitis.html>

Lumbar puncture should be performed for all patients with exposure who are exhibiting symptoms, even subtle symptoms consistent with fungal meningitis as detailed in CDC guidance.

Cases of fungal meningitis following spinal steroid injection are considered a Class A reportable disease ("Any unexpected pattern of cases, deaths, or diseases"). Patients who meet the case definition must be reported immediately by telephone to your local health department.

Background

CDC notified state and local officials that tainted medication from the New England Compounding Center in Framingham, Massachusetts, went to four Ohio healthcare facilities, state and local health officials have worked closely with the clinics and the CDC to contact patients who may have received tainted medicine. The four clinics are Marion Pain Clinic and BKC Pain Specialists in Marion, Cincinnati Pain Management and Ortho-Spine Rehab Center in Dublin.

To date, CDC is reporting 91 cases with 7 deaths in 9 states, with 1 case in Ohio, not in CPH or FCPH jurisdiction. Information on an expanded recall is available on FDA's [website](#).

If you have any questions or if we can be of further assistance, please contact us at (614) 525-3965.



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