



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
201 W. Preston Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D., Secretary

October 4, 2012

Dear Colleague,

Maryland DHMH is contacting you with diagnostic and clinical guidance related to an ongoing investigation into an association between spinal injections and the development of meningitis and/or stroke symptoms. This guidance is a part of a larger multi-state investigation, which was first identified in Tennessee and now includes at least 27 cases in five states. Though the etiology has not been definitively confirmed, at least four of these patients have been identified as having a fungal infection, and at least one of these has been diagnosed as having an *Aspergillus* infection. Although the source of these illnesses is not yet known, methylprednisolone acetate (Solumedrol) from a single manufacturer was used for all of the affected patients, and the company has voluntarily recalled this product.

At this time, DHMH has identified two cases among Maryland residents, one has died.

Maryland DHMH has contacted all the facilities where implicated lots of this product were distributed to ensure removal of the product and to facilitate notification of patients potentially exposed from July 30 to September 28, 2012.

The Maryland facilities that have received the currently implicated product have been notified and have removed the product from use.

These facilities are:

Berlin Interventional Pain Management, Berlin, MD; Box Hill Surgery Center, Abingdon, MD; Greenspring Surgery Center, Baltimore, MD; Harford County Ambulatory Surgery Center, Edgewood, MD; Maryland Pain Specialists, Towson, MD; SurgCenter of Bel Air, Bel Air, MD; Zion Ambulatory Center, Baltimore, MD.

Any suspect cases should be reported to local public health department.

We are attaching guidance issued from the CDC on diagnostic testing and treatment options.

This is an evolving situation both with respect to possible exposed individuals and clinical guidance and we will update you if additional important information becomes available.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lucy Wilson".

Lucy Wilson, M.D., Sc.M.
Chief, Center for Surveillance, Infection Prevention and Outbreak Response

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Joshua Sharfstein".

Joshua Sharfstein, M.D.
Secretary

Attachments:

- 1 – Outbreak diagnostic protocol
- 2 – Treatment options