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Para la traducción de esta carta en español visite la página de internet de LACDPH en:
www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd o llame 211.

January 4, 2011

Dear Patient:

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LACDPH) is investigating viral hepatitis infections in people who received intravenous medication (injection of medications into the vein) while receiving procedures at the Advanced Pain Treatment Medical Center in San Pedro, California between January 16, 2006 and August 18, 2010. Medical records show that you received intravenous medication at this clinic during that time. We recommend that you get tested for hepatitis B (HBV) and hepatitis C (HCV) infections as a precaution, even though the risk that you got infected at the time of your procedure is low. The test for HCV and HBV is a blood test. If you do test positive for any of these viruses, there are treatments available.

Getting tested is important because you can be infected with HBV or HCV and have very mild or no symptoms for a very long time. We also recommend that you get tested for Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) since it can spread in the same way as HBV and HCV. The spread of HIV by intravenous medications is not common.

We understand this news may worry you or cause you anxiety and we are trying to help. If you know your HBV, HCV and HIV status, you can better maintain your health. If you do test positive, there are medicines and treatments available to help you and other things you can do to protect your health and that of your close contacts. LACDPH will educate the medical community to prevent this from happening again.

Because people can get HBV, HCV or HIV infection in different ways, a positive test does not mean that you were infected from intravenous medication given at the Advanced Pain Treatment Medical Center. People at risk for having HBV, HCV or HIV include those who have had blood transfusions in the past or those who have used intravenous illegal drugs, and for HBV those born in a country where HBV is a common infection.

Dear Patient
January 4, 2011
Page 2

We recommend that you be evaluated and tested by your regular health care provider (HCP) because he/she will know your health history and provide complete care. If you are known to have been previously infected with HBV, HCV or HIV, testing for that specific virus is not necessary. In this situation, testing for the other viruses should still be done. We have enclosed a "Dear Physician" letter to be given to your HCP when he/she does your testing (or wherever you are tested) as the letter tells the HCP exactly what tests we recommend. If you test positive for HBV, HCV or HIV, it will be important for your HCP to report your infection to the LACDPH and to provide appropriate counseling and treatment.

Call your HCP for evaluation, testing and questions. Only if you do not have health insurance see the clinics listed below for evaluation and testing.

Westside Neighborhood Clinic	2125 Santa Fe Ave.	Long Beach, CA 90810	562-432-9575
Harbor Community Clinic	593 West 6 th St.	San Pedro, CA 90731	310-547-0202
Wilmington Community Clinic	1009 N. Avalon Blvd.	Wilmington, CA 90744	310-549-5760
Torrance Public Health Center	711 Del Amo Blvd.	Torrance, CA 90502	310-354-2300
Long Beach Comprehensive Health Center	1333 Chestnut Ave.	Long Beach, CA 90806	562-599-2153
South Bay Family Healthcare Gardena	742 W. Gardena Blvd.	Gardena, CA 90247	310-802-6170
South Bay Family Healthcare Redondo Beach	2114 Artesia Blvd.	Redondo Beach, CA 90278	310-802-6170

If you have more questions and/or concerns, you may call 211. You may also learn more information about HBV, HCV and HIV at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website: www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/index.htm or the LACDPH website at: www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd.

Sincerely,



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Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

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c: Elizabeth Bancroft, M.D., S.M.
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