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### **Acute Communicable Disease Control**

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January 4, 2011

Dear Physician:

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LACDPH) is investigating viral hepatitis infections (one confirmed case of hepatitis C and one possible case of hepatitis B) in patients who received intravenous sedation during outpatient procedures at the Advanced Pain Treatment Medical Center in Los Angeles County. Our investigation suggests that transmission was most likely associated with administration of intravenous sedation and not with the medical procedures. We are notifying all patients who received intravenous sedation at this clinic during January 16, 2006 through August 18, 2010 and recommending that they be tested for hepatitis B (HBV), hepatitis C (HCV) and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV).

Clinic records indicate that your patient had intravenous sedation during this period and we are recommending that your patient be tested for HBV, HCV and for HIV. Although our investigation to date has not identified any evidence that HIV was transmitted in this setting, we also recommend that your patient get precautionary testing for HIV, since it is also a blood borne infection. If your patient is 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 realize that this notification may cause your patients some anxiety. Please reassure them that the risk of acquiring HBV, HCV or HIV is very small. The best thing they can do for their health is be tested and receive treatment and evaluation of their contacts if necessary. There are treatments for all three infections.

We are recommending the following tests for your patient(s):

- HBV: Hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg), Hepatitis B surface antibody (HBsAb), and Hepatitis B core antibody Total (HBcAb). There is no need to obtain a test for HBc IgM unless you suspect acute viral hepatitis at the time of the office visit.
- HCV: Hepatitis C enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (EIA). If positive, a confirmatory test, polymerase chain reaction (PCR) should be done.
- HIV: HIV EIA. If positive, a confirmatory Western Blot should be done.

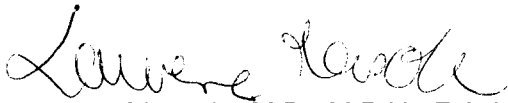
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LACDPH has set up a website about this investigation. On that website, you can find more information about the situation and also information about how to interpret hepatitis serologies. The website is: [www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/HepInfo.htm](http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/HepInfo.htm)

HBV, HCV and HIV are reportable pursuant to the California Code of Regulations § 2500. Because this is an ongoing investigation, we request that you report positive results by the next business day to the LACDPH so that we can determine if there were other instances where bloodborne disease transmission occurred during the administration of intravenous sedation at this clinic. To report positive results to the LACDPH, please fax to 888-397-3778 a copy of the positive lab results along with a confidential morbidity report (available at <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/reports/cmr-h-794.pdf>). For information on how to report HIV positive tests, please call HIV Epidemiology Program at 213-351-8196 or go to [www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/hiv/index.htm](http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/hiv/index.htm).

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance in this matter. If you have any questions about this investigation, please call Acute Communicable Disease Control Program at 213-240-7941.

Sincerely,



Laurene Mascola, M.D., M.P.H., F.A.A.P.  
Chief, Acute Communicable Disease Control Program  
Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

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