



DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Promoting and protecting health, well-being, self-sufficiency, and safety of all in Marin County.



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To: Marin Medical Providers / Clinics / Hospitals

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////// PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY ////

Dear Colleagues;

This advisory provides updated developments concerning a multi-state outbreak of fungal meningitis associated with three lots of methyl prednisolone, manufactured by the New England Compounding Pharmacy, NECC.

On Sunday, October 7, the CDC and FDA reported 91 suspect/confirmed cases of fungal meningitis and 7 deaths in nine states in persons who had received intrathecal injections from the suspected lots. No intra-articular infections have been identified but the CDC has added a case definition for non-meningeal infection (see below).

Clinicians/clinics in California who had received the drug from the three suspect lots have been notified and a case-by-case notice to all patients is nearly complete. No case of confirmed meningitis has been identified in the California investigation but one case of meningitis associated with an injection outside of the State is known. No Marin clinician/clinics received the drug from the suspect lots of methyl prednisolone.

The CDC and the State have issued extensive guidance to clinicians who may encounter suspect cases. Links to these documents are listed below.

On Friday, October 5, the manufacturer of the suspect lots, NECC, voluntarily withdrew all of its intrathecal products although no illness has been reported to drugs outside of the three suspect lots. The list of California providers who have received ANY intrathecal product greatly expands the list of providers and it includes two Marin providers/clinics. Both Marin providers have ceased using any product produced by NECC.

The number of cases in this outbreak is expected to grow and clinicians are advised to be alert for patients presenting with signs or symptoms of meningitis and a history of prior epidural or joint injections with steroids. Guidance on the case definitions, evaluation and treatment of such patients can be found in the links below.

<http://www.cdc.gov/hai/outbreaks/clinicians/index.html>

http://www.cdc.gov/hai/outbreaks/clinicians/casedef_multistate_outbreak.html

http://www.cdc.gov/hai/outbreaks/clinicians/faq_meningitis_outbreak.html

http://www.cdc.gov/hai/outbreaks/clinicians/guidance_cns.html

http://www.cdc.gov/hai/outbreaks/clinicians/guidance_lumbar_puncture.html