



Department of Health

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

HOWARD A. ZUCKER, M.D., J.D.
Commissioner

SALLY DRESLIN, M.S., R.N.
Executive Deputy Commissioner

October 19, 2016

TO: Metropolitan Region Long Term Care and Acute Care Facilities, NYSDOH
Regional Office, Local Health Departments

FROM: NYSDOH Division of Epidemiology, Bureau of Healthcare Associated Infections

**HEALTH ADVISORY:
INVESTIGATIONS OF BURKHOLDERIA CEPACIA INFECTIONS
UPDATED RECOMMENDATIONS**

Please distribute immediately to the Facility Administrator, Infection Control Department, Infectious Disease Department, Director of Nursing, Medical Director, Director of Pharmacy, Laboratory Service, and all patient care areas.

The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) is now investigating 45 cases of bloodstream infections with *Burkholderia cepacia* (*B. cepacia*) as part of a multistate outbreak. Nurse Assist, a medical device manufacturer based in Texas, has issued a voluntary recall of all unexpired lots of intravenous (IV) flush syringes due to a potential link to *B. cepacia* bloodstream infections.

The investigation is ongoing, but the Department is now recommending the following for all patients/residents known or suspected to have been exposed to Nurse Assist IV flushes:

- Order surveillance blood cultures on persons with prosthetic material (such as heart valves and joints) regardless of whether they have symptoms of an infection.
- Reduce the threshold at which blood cultures are ordered for anyone with a central or midline catheter who develops new or different symptoms. Several infections among current cases have been mild or atypical for Gram negative bacteremia.
- Consider surveillance cultures (from the line) for any person who still has a central or midline catheter in place.
- If a blood culture is positive for *B. cepacia*:
 - Institute both Contact Precautions and Standard Precautions until treatment is complete or the central or midline catheter is removed. See: <http://www.cdc.gov/hicpac/2007IP/2007isolationPrecautions.html>
 - The treating physician or an infectious disease consultant should determine appropriate treatment (e.g. removal of the line, antibiotics) based on the individual clinical situation.
 - Report the case to NYSDOH as previously requested.
- If a patient/resident is transferred, inform the receiving facility of the exposure and need for a reduced threshold for blood cultures.
- NYSDOH is no longer recommending that facilities retain the IV flush syringes manufactured by Nurse Assist or IV products distributed by PharmScript. These may be disposed of as advised by your vendor. Make note of Nurse Assist IV flush lot numbers for future reference.

If you have any questions, please call the Bureau of Healthcare Associated Infections at 518-474-1142 or email at icp@health.ny.gov.