



Health Alert Network

Tri-County Health Department

Serving Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas Counties

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John M. Douglas, Jr., M.D. Executive Director

The pages that follow contain information critical to protecting the health of your patients and the citizens of Colorado.

HAN ADVISORY

Number of pages including cover: 4

Subject: **Advisory - Possible Patient Exposure at Swedish Medical Center Due to Drug Diversion by a Surgical Technician**

Message ID: 2/3/2016 3:30:00 PM

Recipients: HAN Community Members.

From: TRI-COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas County, Colorado

Recipient Instructions: **Tri-County Health Department is forwarding you the attached HAN. You may have already received this broadcast if you are on the CDPHE distribution list, however, we wanted to ensure you did not miss this important information. No response is required.**

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You have received this message based upon the information contained within our Health Alert Network Notification System. If you have a different or additional e-mail or fax address that you would like us to use, or if you have additional questions, call 720-200-1477.

Categories of Health Alert Network Messages:

Health Alert: Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update: Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

Info Service/Public Health Brief: Provides general information that is not necessarily considered to be of an emergent nature.

You may download a copy of this HAN from the TCHD website at
<http://www.tchd.org/259/Health-Alert-Network>



COLORADO

Department of Public
Health & Environment

Dedicated to protecting and improving the health and environment of the people of Colorado

HEALTH ALERT NETWORK BROADCAST

MESSAGE ID: Q2032016 10:00

FROM: CO-CDPHE

SUBJECT: HAN Advisory - Possible Patient Exposure at Swedish Medical Center due to Drug Diversion by a Surgical Technician

RECIPIENTS: Local Public Health Agencies and Infectious Disease Physicians

RECIPIENT INSTRUCTIONS: Local Health Public Health Agencies - please forward to healthcare providers

HEALTH ADVISORY

Possible Patient Exposure at Swedish Medical Center Due to Drug Diversion by a Surgical Technician
February 3, 2016

*****Health care providers: Please distribute widely to your staff*****

KEY POINTS:

- CDPHE and Swedish Medical Center are investigating drug diversion by a surgical technician at Swedish Medical Center.
- Drug diversion of injectable medications is known to put patients at risk for bloodborne pathogens, including human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), hepatitis B virus (HBV), and hepatitis C virus (HCV).
- All patients that received surgery in the Swedish Medical Center main operating room between August 17, 2015 and January 22, 2016 will be notified by Swedish Medical Center of their possible risk of exposure to bloodborne pathogens, including HIV, HBV, and HCV. Additionally, certain patients that received surgery at the Swedish Orthopedic Center on October 28, 2015, or December 17, 2015, will also be notified.
- Patients at risk as above should call the Swedish Patient Care Line at 303-728-7140 to speak with a nurse 24 hours a day/7 days a week to determine if testing is needed. If so, patients should be tested for HIV, HBV, and HCV as soon as possible, and can receive testing free of charge at a LabCorp clinic of their choice by making an appointment at www.labcorp.com or by calling 1-888-LAB-CORP (1-888-522-2677).
- For further questions regarding this incident, including testing questions, healthcare providers and patients can call the Swedish Patient Care Line at 303-728-7140 to speak with a nurse 24 hours a day/7 days a week.
- For general questions regarding HIV, HBV, and HCV, the general public can call the Colorado Health Emergency Line for Public Information (COHELP) at 1-877-462-2911 (Monday-Friday: 9 am-7 pm, and Saturday-Sunday: 9 am-5 pm).



BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

On January 23, 2016, Swedish Medical Center reported to CDPHE possible drug diversion by a surgical technician in an operating room. An initial investigation by CDPHE and Swedish Medical Center has identified that the stealing of narcotic pain medication intended for patients ('drug diversion') and potential tampering by the surgical technician could have exposed certain patients to human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), hepatitis B virus (HBV), and hepatitis C virus (HCV).

All patients that received surgery in the Swedish Medical Center main operating room between August 17, 2015, and January 22, 2016, and certain patients that received surgery at the Swedish Orthopedic Center on October 28, 2015, or December 17, 2015, are at possible risk of exposure to HIV, HBV, and HCV. Swedish Medical Center will notify patients at risk via mailed letter and phone call and recommend testing for HIV, HBV, and HCV. Letters will be mailed to patients on February 3, 2016. Swedish Medical Center is offering confidential testing of these patients determined to be at risk and at no cost to patients through LabCorp. Patients who live outside of Colorado will also be notified by Swedish Medical Center and should receive testing at a LabCorp clinic in their state.

Swedish Medical Center (the main hospital) is located at: 501 East Hampden Avenue, Englewood, CO 80113. Swedish Orthopedic Center is located at 799 East Hampden Avenue 2nd floor, Englewood, CO 80113 (on the same campus as the main hospital).

There is no known ongoing risk of bloodborne pathogen transmission due to this event at Swedish Medical Center; the surgical technician has been terminated from employment. To date, the health department is not aware of specific infections linked to Swedish Medical Center. The public health investigation is ongoing.

RECOMMENDATIONS / GUIDANCE:

At this time, CDPHE and Swedish Medical Center recommend HIV, HBV, and HCV testing for:

- All patients that received surgery in the Swedish Medical Center main operating room between August 17, 2015, and January 22, 2016.
- Certain patients that received surgery at the Swedish Orthopedic Center on October 28, 2015, or December 17, 2015.

Patients can receive testing free of charge at a LabCorp of their choice by making an appointment at www.labcorp.com or by calling 1-888-LAB-CORP (1-888-522-2677). Patients should bring the letter they receive from Swedish Medical Center to their appointment.

Health care providers and patients who have questions regarding this incident or specific testing related to this incident should contact the Swedish Patient Care Line at 303-728-7140 to speak with a nurse 24 hours a day/7 days a week. Patient testing can be complex and is influenced by vaccination status, the date of the patient's last surgery at Swedish Medical Center, and the type of testing conducted. Health care providers should also counsel patients regarding symptoms of infection and strategies to prevent further transmission of HIV, HBV, and HCV while patients are undergoing testing.



The general public can call the Colorado Health Emergency Line for Public Information (COHELP) at 1-877-462-2911 (Monday-Friday: 9 am-7 pm, and Saturday-Sunday: 9 am-5 pm) for general questions about HIV, HBV, and HCV.

Further recommendations may be forthcoming as the investigation continues.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

For further questions regarding this incident, including testing questions, healthcare providers and patients can call the Swedish Patient Care Line at 303-728-7140 to speak with a nurse 24 hours a day/7 days a week.

For general questions regarding HIV, HBV, and HCV, the general public can call the Colorado Health Emergency Line for Public Information (COHELP) at 1-877-462-2911 (Monday-Friday: 9 am-7 pm, and Saturday-Sunday: 9 am-5 pm).

Local public health departments with questions can contact CDPHE at 303-692-2700.

For further information:

Drug diversion

- <http://www.cdc.gov/injectionsafety/drugdiversion/>

Injection Safety

- <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/injection-safety-0>
- <http://www.cdc.gov/injectionsafety/>
- <http://www.oneandonlycampaign.org/>

HIV

- <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/sti-hiv>
- <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/default.htm>

Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C

- <http://www.hepatitiscolorado.info>
- <http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/index.htm>

