



COCA Clinical Reminder

Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA)
CDC Emergency Communication System

October 15, 2012

Dear Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) Listserv Subscriber,

In response to the 2012 Multistate Fungal Meningitis Outbreak Investigation, we would like to provide you with the following information. If you have any questions on these or other clinical issues, please write to us at coca@cdc.gov.

Multistate Fungal Meningitis Outbreak Investigation

A. Upcoming COCA Call: Multistate Fungal Meningitis Outbreak Investigation Update: Information and Guidance for Clinicians

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) continue to work closely with state public health departments on a multistate investigation of fungal meningitis among patients who received an epidural steroid injection. These cases are associated with a potentially contaminated steroid medication prepared by New England Compounding Center (NECC), located in Framingham, Mass. During this COCA Call, subject matter experts will provide updates to the current epidemiology of the outbreak, describe clinical presentation and features of fungal meningitis, and review CDC's recommended treatment guidance.

Date: Tuesday, October 16, 2012 –

Time: 2:00 – 3:00 pm (Eastern Time)

Speakers: Melissa K. Schaefer, MD; Tom Chiller, MD, MPH; and Peter G. Pappas, MD

Call-in: 888-790-6180

Passcode: 1281914

For more information on this call:

http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2012/callinfo_101612.asp

B. Recent COCA Call: Multistate Meningitis Outbreak Investigation: Information and Guidance for Clinicians

During this COCA call, CDC subject matter experts discussed current epidemiology of the fungal meningitis outbreak, described clinical presentation and features of fungal meningitis, and reviewed CDC's recommended treatment guidance.

Date: Wednesday, October 10, 2012

Time: 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm (Eastern Time)

Access recorded call audio and transcript:

http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2012/callinfo_101012.asp

C. New and Updated Clinician Resources

- **NEW:** What Should Physicians Be Doing?
<http://www.cdc.gov/hai/outbreaks/clinicians/what-physicians-should-be-doing.html>
- **NEW:** Interim Guidance for Management of Asymptomatic Persons Exposed to Potentially Contaminated Steroid Products
http://www.cdc.gov/hai/outbreaks/clinicians/interim_guidance_asymptomatic_persons.html
- **NEW:** Interim Treatment Options for Septic Arthritis Associated With Injection of Potentially Contaminated Steroid Products
http://www.cdc.gov/hai/outbreaks/clinicians/interim_treatment_options_septic_arthritis.html
- **Updated:** Role of Antifungal Prophylaxis in Asymptomatic Patients
http://www.cdc.gov/hai/outbreaks/clinicians/guidance_antifungal_prophylaxis.html
- **Updated:** Frequently Asked Questions for Clinicians
http://www.cdc.gov/hai/outbreaks/clinicians/faq_meningitis_outbreak.html
- **Updated:** Instructions for Clinicians Regarding Diagnostic Testing and Specimen Shipping for Central Nervous System and Parameningeal Infections
http://www.cdc.gov/hai/outbreaks/clinicians/instructions_testingandsubmission.html
- **Updated:** Interim Treatment Guidance for Central Nervous System (CNS) and/or Parameningeal Infections Associated with Injection of Potentially Contaminated Steroid Products
http://www.cdc.gov/hai/outbreaks/clinicians/interim_treatment_guidance_central_nervous_system_parameningeal.html
- **Updated:** Current Case Count - MultiState Meningitis Outbreak
<http://www.cdc.gov/hai/outbreaks/meningitis-map.html>

D. Additional Updates

MMWR Update: Multistate Outbreak of Fungal Infection Associated with Injection of Methylprednisolone Acetate Solution from a Single Compounding Pharmacy --- United States, 2012 — October 12, 2012 / Vol. 61 / (Early Release)

On September 18, 2012, the Tennessee Department of Health was alerted by a clinician regarding a patient with culture-confirmed *Aspergillus fumigatus* meningitis diagnosed 46 days following epidural steroid injection at a Tennessee ambulatory surgical center. By September 27, the initial investigation, carried out by the Tennessee Department of Health in collaboration with CDC and the state health department in North Carolina, had identified an additional eight patients with clinically diagnosed, culture-negative meningitis. As of October 10, a multistate investigation led by CDC in collaboration with the Food and Drug Administration and state and local health departments had identified 137 cases and 12

deaths in 10 states associated with this outbreak.

http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm61e1012a1.htm?s_cid=mm61e1012a1_e

On behalf of the Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA)

Joint Information Center (JIC) Clinician Communication Team

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention