

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
2018– PAHAN –406 –04-24- ADV
Multistate Outbreak of *Serratia marcescens*
Infections--2018

DATE:	April 24, 2018
TO:	Health Alert Network
FROM:	Rachel Levine, MD, Secretary of Health
SUBJECT:	Multistate Outbreak of <i>Serratia marcescens</i> Infections--2018
DISTRIBUTION:	Statewide
LOCATION:	Statewide
STREET ADDRESS:	n/a
COUNTY:	n/a
MUNICIPALITY:	n/a
ZIP CODE:	n/a

This transmission is a “Health Advisory” provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

HOSPITALS: PLEASE SHARE WITH ALL MEDICAL, PEDIATRIC, INFECTION CONTROL, NURSING AND LABORATORY STAFF IN YOUR HOSPITAL; EMS COUNCILS: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE; FQHCs: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE LOCAL HEALTH JURISDICTIONS: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE; PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO YOUR MEMBERSHIP

SUMMARY:

- The Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) is working with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and other state and local health departments to investigate multiple clusters of primarily bloodstream infections caused by *Serratia marcescens* since January 2018.
- Most affected patients are children with central venous catheters or implantable medication ports in place at the time of their infection.
- Due to a potential association with the use of heparin and saline flushes, BD is voluntarily recalling certain lots of BD PosiFlush™ Heparin Lock Flush and BD™ Pre-Filled Normal Saline Flush syringes.
- DOH requests that healthcare providers report clusters of *S. marcescens* bloodstream infections occurring after April 1, 2018 as described in this advisory.

DOH is working with CDC, FDA and other state and local health departments, to investigate multiple clusters of primarily bloodstream infections caused by *Serratia marcescens* since January 2018. The majority of affected patients are children with central venous catheters or implantable medication ports in place at the time of their infection. Molecular testing of clinical isolates from patients from 3 states suggest a common exposure. Common products that have been identified include heparin and saline flushes, however, to date, no products have tested positive for *S. marcescens*. CDC continues to work with health departments and FDA to investigate these and other potential common exposures.

In response to the current investigation and a potential association with the use of heparin and saline flushes, BD is voluntarily recalling certain lots of BD PosiFlush™ Heparin Lock Flush and BD™ Pre-Filled Normal Saline Flush syringes due to potential contamination with *S. marcescens*. Please refer to the following link for additional details and a list of the recalled

products and lot numbers: <http://www.bd.com/en-us/support/alerts-and-notices/medical-device-recall-for-bd-posiflush-heparin-lock-flush-syringes-and-bd-pre-filled-normal-saline-syringes>.

This investigation is ongoing and DOH continues to work with federal, state and local health partners to investigate.

DOH requests that health care facilities report:

- Clusters (i.e., ≥ 2 cases) at a single healthcare facility since April 1, 2018, of *S. marcescens* bloodstream infections in patients who have central venous catheters or ports in place, or
- Cases since April 1, 2018, of *S. marcescens* bloodstream infections among outpatients who have central venous catheters or ports in place.

Please report cases to your local health department or by calling 1-877-PA-HEALTH. Retain available isolates for possible further testing.

Categories of Health Alert 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.

This information is current as of April 24, 2018, but may be modified in the future.
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