

Cover Sheet

DATE: October 17, 2012

SUBJECT: DPHHS Media Release Regarding Recalled
NECC Products in Montana

INSTRUCTIONS:

REDISTRIBUTE AT YOUR DISCRETION. Share this information with relevant SMEs or contacts (internal and external) as you see fit. **Remove this cover sheet before redistributing and replace it with your own.**

INFORMATION:

This HAN contains a media release and talking points regarding the recall of ALL products from the New England Compounding Center (NECC). All products were recalled nationally after three lots of injectable steroid medications were found to be contaminated, which were linked to fungal meningitis infections in patients, some leading to death.

DPHHS is not aware of any contaminated injectable products from NECC in Montana but we have received other NECC products now under recall. We have received a list from the FDA of all NECC products shipped to Montana, and we are currently working with local health agencies and clinics who received products to identify any injectable medications that may have been administered to patients. The list of involved clinics could expand as the investigation continues.

DPHHS has notified all public health agencies directly impacted (i.e. have clinics that received NECC products). If you have not been notified by DPHHS it means we are not aware of product being shipped to your area at this time. However, because of the regional nature of our health care delivery system, most jurisdictions will have patients impacted by this recall that may be notified by their health care provider. We will keep you updated as more information becomes available.

Remove this cover sheet before redistributing and replace it with your own.

**For LOCAL HEALTH
DEPARTMENT reference only**

DPHHS Subject Matter Resource for more information regarding this HAN, contact:

**Dr. Randy Nett
Dr. Abby Canon
Epidemiology Section
1-406-444-0273**

**DPHHS Health Alert Hotline:
1-800-701-5769**

**DPHHS HAN Website:
www.han.mt.gov**

Please ensure that DPHHS is included on your HAN distribution list.

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.

Please call DPHHS to update contact information at 444-0919

NEWS

*"Improving and Protecting the
Health, Well-Being and Self-
Reliance of All Montanans."*



Department of Public Health and Human Services

www.dphhs.mt.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 17, 2012

Contact: Jon Ebelt, Public Information Officer, DPHHS, (406) 444-0936
Chuck Council, Communications Specialist, DPHHS, (406) 444-4391

DPHHS, public health agencies respond to federal recall of all products associated with multi-state fungal meningitis outbreak

DPHHS requests Montana healthcare providers contact patients

The Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS), public health agencies and private clinics in Montana are supporting the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) recall of all products from the New England Compounding Center (NECC).

This recall is part of the on-going multi-state fungal meningitis outbreak that is being investigated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the FDA.

While there is no indication that contaminated products came to Montana, **all products** from NECC were recently recalled **out of an abundance of caution.**

No related illnesses have been identified in any Montana resident at this time.

To help ensure public health authorities and federal regulators become aware of any additional problems, clinicians who injected patients with any product from NECC are asked to notify these recipients and determine if any complications are present.

Pain reduction medications produced by NECC have been linked to 233 cases of fungal meningitis and 15 deaths in 15 states, according to the CDC.

Symptoms of meningitis may include a new or worsening headache, dizziness, fever, nausea, and sensitivity to light. A number of people who became ill also had symptoms of stroke, such as weakness or difficulty with speech. Most of the illnesses are being reported one to four weeks after the injection was received. This form of meningitis is not contagious.

Because the situation continues to develop as the FDA and CDC investigation expands, the list of products and clinics receiving products distributed by NECC may grow. Updated information is available at the DPHHS web site: www.dphhs.mt.gov

County Health Departments / Providers

NECC Product recall -talking points

The Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS), public health agencies and private clinics in Montana are supporting the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) recall of all products from the New England Compounding Center (NECC).

- This recall is part of the on-going multi-state fungal meningitis outbreak.
- While there is no indication that contaminated products came to Montana, **all products** from NECC were recently recalled **out of an abundance of caution.**
- No related illnesses have been identified in any Montana resident at this time.
- Clinicians who injected patients with any product from NECC are asked to notify recipients of the potential concern and determine if any complications are present.
- Pain reduction medications produced by NECC have been linked to 233 cases of fungal meningitis and 15 deaths in 15 states, according to the CDC.
- Symptoms of this type of meningitis may include a new or worsening headache, dizziness, fever, nausea, and sensitivity to light. A number of people who became ill also had symptoms of stroke, such as weakness or difficulty with speech.
- Most of the illnesses are being reported one to four weeks after the injection was received.
- This form of meningitis is not contagious.
- Updated information is available at the DPHHS web site: www.dphhs.mt.gov
- (Insert additional local talking points.)