

Fungal Meningitis Outbreak

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The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) are coordinating a multistate investigation of fungal meningitis among patients who received epidural steroid injections (medication injected into the spine). Several of these patients have suffered meningitis and/or strokes that are believed to have resulted from their infection. Fungal meningitis is not transmitted from person to person; these cases are associated with a potentially contaminated medication.

The investigation into the exact source of the outbreak is ongoing, however, interim data indicate that all infected patients received an injection with preservative-free methylprednisolone acetate (80mg/ml) prepared by New England Compounding Center (NECC), located in Framingham, MA. The FDA has been working closely with the CDC, health departments in several states, and the Massachusetts Board of Pharmacy to investigate the scope of the outbreak. FDA inspectors have also been conducting an inspection at the NECC facility.

On September 25, 2012, NECC voluntarily recalled the following lots of methylprednisolone acetate (PF) 80mg/ml:

- Methylprednisolone Acetate (PF) 80 mg/ml Injection, Lot #05212012@68, BUD 11/17/2012
- Methylprednisolone Acetate (PF) 80 mg/ml Injection, Lot #06292012@26, BUD 12/26/2012
- Methylprednisolone Acetate (PF) 80 mg/ml Injection, Lot #08102012@51, BUD 2/6/2013

On October 3, 2012, NECC ceased all production and initiated a recall of all methylprednisolone acetate and other drug products prepared for intrathecal administration.

Additional information is available on the [CDC website](#). Health care professionals are requested to report any suspected adverse events following use of these products to FDA's MedWatch program at 1.800.332.1088, or www.fda.gov/medwatch.

For Cigna-related inquiries, health care professionals should call Cigna Customer Service at 1.800.88Cigna (882.4462).



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