Hepatitis Outbreaks’ National Organization for Reform

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www.HONOReform.org
www.OneandOnlyCampaign.org
www.ANeverEvent.com
“Patient turns a harsh light on dangerous medical error.”
—as seen in USA Today

A NEVER EVENT

Exposing the Largest Outbreak of Hepatitis C in American Healthcare History

Evelyn V. McKnight and Travis T. Bennington

www.ANeverEvent.com
What went wrong?
What Went Wrong?

- Improper port flush procedure
Healthcare transmission of bloodborne pathogens

Unsafe Injection

1. A clean syringe and needle are used to draw the medicine from a new vial.
2. It is then administered to a patient who has been previously infected with hepatitis C virus or another virus. Backflow into the syringe now contaminates the syringe.
3. The now-used needle is replaced.
4. The original syringe is used for a second medicine for the infected patient. A new syringe and needle are then used to draw medication from the contaminated vial for a new patient. Subsequent patients are now at risk of infection.

SOURCE: Clark County Health District

GRAPHIC BY MIKE JOHNSON/REVIEW-JOURNAL
What Went Wrong?

- Improper port flush procedure
- Index case came to clinic in 2000
- Complaints to physician and admin
- Complaints from housekeeping, pharmacy, lab, nursing and patients
- …continuing for at least 16 months!
What happened to the victims?

- 6 died of Hepatitis C, *not* cancer
- 1 liver transplant, deceased 5/2010
- 33 underwent treatment, 28 successful
- 1 sexually acquired HCV
- 11 died of cancer, including 2 who went through treatment
- 89 lawsuits, $16M paid from NELF
Not just once, long ago
Not just once, long ago

- In past 11 years, 620 patients were infected in 52 outbreaks
- 20% of outbreaks occurred 7/08-6/09
- Majority of outbreaks (42 out of 51) occurred in non-hospital settings

Recent Investigations

- Nebraska 2002
- Nevada 2008, 2011
- N Carolina 2008, 2010
- Texas 2009
- South Dakota 2009
- New Jersey 2009
- Colorado 2009, 2011
- Pennsylvania 2010
- West Virginia 2010
- New Mexico 2010
- Wisconsin 2010
- Florida 2010
- California 2011
- Minnesota 2011
Recent Investigations

New York Psychiatric Clinic
Feb, 2011: 229 notified, due to reuse of finger stick pens

Minnesota Hospital
March, 2011: 12 bacterial infections thru drug diversion
reuse of syringes to access IV bag of pain medicine

Colorado Pediatric Practice
April, 2011: 250 children exposed through reused of prefilled flu vaccine syringes
Settings involved in outbreaks:

- Hospitals
- Ambulatory Surgical Centers
- Pain clinics
- Residential settings
- Health Fairs
- Private medical practices
Disciplines involved in outbreaks:

- Anesthesia
- Endocrinology
- Gastroenterology
- Holistic Health
- Oncology
- Pediatrics
- Radiology
- Urology
Professionals involved in outbreaks:

- Administration
- Housekeeping
- Infection Control
- Pathology
- Nursing

- Pharmacy
- Patients
- Physicians
- Public Health
- Support technicians
Root Causes of Outbreaks:

- No adherence to safe injection practices
  www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/injectionsafety.html
- Migration of care from inpatient to outpatient settings, with less oversight
- Lack of comprehensive training and oversight of infection control protocols
- Baby boomers accessing healthcare more, bringing HCV with them
But really, *why*?

- Improper or no training
- Time pressures
- Money pressures

*Not thoughtful practice*
Both entities strive to prevent future outbreaks.

HONOR Reform advocates legislative/regulatory options.

HONOR Reform Foundation educates regarding healthcare transmission of bloodborne pathogens.

Both entities strive to prevent future outbreaks.
Three-prong approach to safety

Incentives to Ensure Patient Safety

Culture of Patient Safety

Safety by Design
Alliance for Injection Safety

• HONOR Reform, AANA, Hospira, Becton Dickenson
• Congressional Briefing
• FY09, FY10 & FY 11 Appropriations
• FDA, CMS, HHS & CDC collaboration
Safe Injection Practices Coalition

• Raises awareness about safe injection practices
• Aims to eradicate outbreaks resulting from unsafe injection practices

Members are: AAAHC, AANA, APIC, BD, CDC, CDCF, Covidien, Hospira, HONORReform, NACCHO, NE Med Soc, NV Med Assn, Premier, MEDRAD, FDA; State Partners: Nevada, New York, New Jersey
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ONE NEEDLE, ONE SYRINGE, ONLY ONE TIME.

Safe Injection Practices Coalition
www.ONEandONLYcampaign.org

Patient empowerment, Provider education
One & Only Campaign Materials

Some Things Should Never Be Reused

A Patient’s Guide to Injection Safety

www.ONEandONLYcampaign.org

Rx for Safe Injections

1 Needle + 1 Syringe
1 Time =
0 Infections

This practice supports the One and Only campaign and its goal to make sure that needles and syringes are NEVER reused from one patient to another.

Injection Safety: What Healthcare Providers Need to Know

www.ONEandONLYcampaign.org
One and Only Campaign

The One & Only Campaign is a public health campaign aimed at raising awareness among the general public and healthcare providers about safe injection practices.  Learn More About Our Pilot Sites

**EVENTS**
New Jersey Joins the SIPC to promote the One & Only Campaign. Joining Nevada and New York in an effort to encourage safe injection practices in all healthcare settings. Read More.

**NEWS**
Research shows small percentage of healthcare professionals still reusing syringes, performing injections in ways that put patients at risk. Sign Up for Email Updates

Averaged 11,807 monthly viewers in 2010

Our Epocrates app has received almost 3,000 full downloads

Almost 5,000 DVDs have been distributed across the globe

New Jersey joins the SIPC as the 3rd state partner

539 YouTube upload views since Nov. 2010
Bring an advocate with you to medical appointments
Ask these questions:

• Will there be a new needle, new syringe, and a new vial for this procedure or injection?
• Can you tell me how you prevent the spread of infections in your facility?
• What steps are you taking to keep me safe?
HONOReform Compassionate Response Toolkit

Welcome Letter from Dr. Evelyn Mcknight.................................................. 1

Hepatitis Education

What is Hepatitis C?................................................................. 3-4
What are the Symptoms?......................................................... 4
Questions to Ask My Doctor..................................................... 5
Tests for Hepatitis C............................................................... 5
Liver Function and Facts......................................................... 6-7
Staying Healthy with Hepatitis C............................................... 7
Nutrition.................................................................................. 8
In Conclusion,

outbreaks continue to affect many people...
The One & Only Campaign is a public health campaign aimed at raising awareness among the general public and healthcare providers about safe injection practices.

Learn More About Our Pilot Sites

EVENTS
One & Only Campaign Website Launch

NEWS
Jury awards Henderson couple a record $500 million award

And you can help prevent them!
Thank you!

Any Questions???

Photography courtesy of Tom McKnight and Dean Jacobs