

## News release

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### **Epidural steroid medication not shipped to Oregon**

***Public health officials also report no fungal meningitis cases in the state, but labs and providers are still on the look-out***

The Oregon Health Authority's Public Health Division has confirmed that none of the steroid medication linked to 105 fungal meningitis cases and eight deaths across the country has been shipped to the state.

There also have been no reports in Oregon of cases of fungal meningitis or strokes linked to the outbreak.

"Oregon has not received any of the three lots of the contaminated steroid," said Paul Cieslak, M.D., of the Public Health Division.

Health officials have confirmed that 11 clinics in Oregon have received other products from the New England Compounding Center in Framingham, Mass., including steroids and anesthetics, but none of them are from the lots implicated in the outbreak. The New England Compounding Center has voluntarily recalled all of its products nationwide, and the Public Health Division has contacted the clinics to let them know of the recall and to pull this manufacturer's steroid products off their shelves.

"We've contacted these clinics out of an abundance of caution," Cieslak says. "Until this investigation is complete, all clinics should remove these products immediately."

Public Health Division epidemiologists have also alerted county health departments, as well as emergency department and infectious disease providers at hospitals and laboratories around the state, asking them to look for cases of fungal  
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meningitis or stroke following injection of any medication into the epidural space (next to the spinal cord). In addition, the Oregon Board of Pharmacy has alerted all pharmacies throughout the state about NECC's recall.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is coordinating a multistate investigation of meningitis among persons who received the epidural steroid injection. In several patients, the meningitis was found to be caused by a fungus that is common in the environment but rarely causes meningitis. This form of meningitis is not contagious.

Several patients have had strokes related to their meningitis.

Patients who have had an epidural steroid injection since May 21, 2012, and have any of the following symptoms, should seek emergency medical care as soon as possible:

- Worsening headache.
- Fever.
- Sensitivity to light.
- Stiff neck.
- New weakness or numbness in any part of your body.
- Slurred speech.

The epidural steroid medication associated with this outbreak is not the same as the epidural injections given to pregnant women during childbirth.

More information:

CDC Meningitis Outbreak website:

<http://www.cdc.gov/HAI/outbreaks/meningitis.html>

CDC Fungal Diseases website: <http://www.cdc.gov/fungal/>

CDC Fungal Meningitis website: <http://www.cdc.gov/meningitis/fungal.html>

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