Abigail Gray

From: Abigail Gray
Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2025 1:21 PM
Subject: Local Provider Alert: Multistate cluster of Paraburkholderia fungorum associated with ultrasound gel

Hello! Please see the Local Provider Alert below.

Alert: Use only sterile ultrasound gel for percutaneous procedures

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has received reports of *Paraburkholderia fungorum,* an environmental bacterium, associated with use of ultrasound gel from multiple states from 2024-2025. As of May 8, 2025, CDC is aware of 40 isolates of *P. fungorum* primarily isolated from patient blood cultures. These isolates are linked by whole genome sequencing in four U.S. states and two other countries. Product testing across these jurisdictions has isolated *P. fungorum* from at least two non-sterile ultrasound gel products (MediChoice® [lots: 240302; 240306] and ClearImage® [lots: 230221, 230256, 240227, 240230], both manufactured by NEXT Medical Products Company [Branchburg, NJ]). See CDC's webpage on this outbreak for more information here.

Recommendations for health care providers:

1. Use only single-use ultrasound gel products labeled as "sterile" for ultrasonography in preparation for or during percutaneous procedures (e.g., placement of central and peripheral intravascular lines, amniocentesis, paracentesis, tissue biopsy, and surgical procedures).
2. Health care providers who perform ultrasounds or ultrasound-associated procedures should be trained in the appropriate use of ultrasound gel products.
3. An ultrasound gel product label's claim of "bacteriostatic" or "preservative" without a specific indication of sterility should be considered non-sterile for clinical purposes.

Health care facilities should report any infection by *P. fungorum* to the Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAI) program identified since October 2024 to HAI@odhsoha.oregon.gov. Facilities should report any adverse events or quality problems experienced with the use of any ultrasound gel products to the product manufacturer and FDA's MedWatch Adverse Event Reporting program .

For Clinical Laboratories:

Suspected clinical *P. fungorum* isolates may be submitted to the Oregon State Public Health Laboratory (OSPHL). Laboratories should also continue to send isolates for presumptive *Burkholderia mallei* and *B. pseudomallei* rule-out to OSPHL as applicable. This is pertinent because *P. fungorum* can be mis-identified as presumptive *Burkholderia* species.

Laboratory Response Network (LRN) laboratories can expect more detailed information and guidance related to this message in a separate notice. Please contact OSPHL with questions about isolate submission at 503-693-4100.

Please contact Lex Zhang, HAI Program Manager, if you have any questions: alexia.y.zhang@oha.oregon.gov or (971) 271-0017.

This HAN notification was sent to the following alert lists: ORCD1 (includes:Tribal and local health administrators and health officers, CD Nurses, hospitals, preparedness coordinators, labs, epidemiologists, and some members of OHA's staff and leadership) and hospital infection preventionists.

Unless otherwise noted, feel free to share this HAN notification with:
- Others within your organization.
- Professionals within your health, preparedness, and response affiliations.

Oregon 24/7 disease reporting: 971-673-1111

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