

Guidelines for Counseling/Testing of Raleigh Heart Clinic Patients for Local Health Departments

Patients of Raleigh Heart Clinic who underwent stress testing (myocardial perfusion imaging) between March 01, 2012 and March 27, 2015 are being notified of a possible exposure to bloodborne pathogens following the detection of a cluster of patients with hepatitis B and C who had procedures at this clinic.

Attached is a copy of the patient notification letter and the 'Dear Doctor' letter.

Guidelines for the initial visit:

Testing is recommended for a patient who:

- is a Raleigh Heart Clinic (RHC) patient, AND
- received injections at the RHC, AND
- injection occurred within the last 3 years (between March 1, 2012 and March 27, 2015).

If the patient is NOT a RHC patient, he/she is not at risk. If the patient did not receive an injection from RHC, he/she is not at risk.

Explain that the purpose of testing is to detect silent infections with hepatitis B, hepatitis C or HIV so that patients can get counseling and/or treatment. A positive test in a Raleigh Heart Clinic patient does not mean that the infection came from Raleigh Heart Clinic.

After discussing options with your patient, if your patient wants to be tested, order:

1. Hepatitis B surface antigen
2. Hepatitis C antibody
3. Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)

Remind your patient that more information is available at www.dide.wv.gov or by calling 1 (800) 642 8244.

Testing through the local health department will be available from March 01, 2016 until July 01, 2016.

When a patient returns (or calls) for negative results:

1. Explain that no evidence of infection with hepatitis B, hepatitis C or HIV was detected.
2. Answer any questions and reiterate the resources available if they have further questions:
 - a. www.dide.wv.gov
 - b. Hotline: 1 (800) 642-8244
 - c. Other locally available resources to counsel about hepatitis or HIV risk

When a patient returns (or calls) for any positive result:

1. Explain the results to the patient.
2. Explain how the disease(s) can be transmitted and offer information about the disease(s). Explain how to prevent transmission to others. Links to patient information sheets are found below.

3. Perform confirmatory testing, if indicated. A positive hepatitis C antibody should be confirmed with an HCV RNA test.
4. Evaluate for possible treatment. Links to treatment resources are found below.
5. Answer any questions and reiterate the resources available if they have further questions:
 - a. www.dide.wv.gov
 - b. Hotline: 1 (800) 642-8244
 - c. Other locally available resources to counsel about hepatitis or HIV risk
6. Report positive results to the local health department in the county that the patient resides and notify your patient that positive results are reported to the local health department in accordance with state law.
7. It is possible to identify cases of all three viruses that might not be linked to the cardiology clinic. A positive test result in a RHC patient does not necessarily mean that the infection was acquired at RHC.

Attachments

- Patient Notification Letter
- Dear Doctor Notification Letter
- Hepatitis B Fact Sheet
- Hepatitis C Fact Sheet
- HIV Fact Sheet

Below is a list of resources you may find helpful:

1. Hepatitis B Information

WVDHHR: <http://www.dhhr.wv.gov/oeps/disease/AtoZ/Pages/HepB.aspx>

CDC: <http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hbv/index.htm>

2. Hepatitis C Information

WVDHHR: <http://www.dhhr.wv.gov/oeps/disease/AtoZ/Pages/HepC.aspx>

CDC: <http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hcv/index.htm>

3. HIV Information

WVDHHR: <http://www.dhhr.wv.gov/oeps/std-hiv-hep/Pages/default.aspx>

CDC: <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/>

4. American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases Guidelines

<http://www.aasld.org/practiceguidelines/pages/default.aspx>