Investigation of Acute Hepatitis B and C Cases

March 14, 2013
Overview

• Healthcare-associated transmission of hepatitis B and C

• Infection risks in ambulatory care settings

• What to look for when acute hepatitis B and C case reports are submitted

• What to do if a report suspicious for healthcare-associated transmission of hepatitis B or C is identified
Healthcare-Associated Hepatitis B and C Infections

• A number of large healthcare-associated hepatitis B and C outbreaks have been identified over the past decade

• Most occurred in ambulatory care facilities and were caused by unsafe injection practices; hospital outbreaks less common and often associated with drug diversion

• More than 150,000 patients potentially exposed in U.S. healthcare facilities over the past decade

• Public health departments increasingly expected to play a role in identifying and responding to healthcare-associated transmission of hepatitis B and C
50,000 Patients Potentially Exposed to Hepatitis C

Nevada hepatitis C outbreak largest in U.S.

Health officials report 105 possible hepatitis C cases

By Mary Manning
Thursday, Oct. 23, 2008 | 10:25 a.m.

The Southern Nevada Health District has classified 105 cases of chronic hepatitis C infection as possibly associated with two endoscopy centers in Las Vegas, making it the largest outbreak of the blood-borne illness in the country.

Another nine hepatitis C cases have been directly linked to two

• 105 patients possibly infected with HCV
BUFFALO, N.Y. - (AP) -- Three former patients of a western New York hospital say they contracted hepatitis because the hospital misused multidose insulin pens.

A lawsuit announced Tuesday against Olean General Hospital and several insulin pen manufacturers comes after authorities say at least 12 people tested positive for hepatitis C after being screened by the Cattaraugus County hospital.

The hospital last month notified 1,915 former patients that they may have been exposed to HIV or hepatitis B or C through the sharing of multidose insulin pens from November 2009 through January this year.
Infection Risks in Ambulatory Care Settings

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California Department of Public Health
Richmond, CA
Learning Objectives

- Describe infection control concerns in ambulatory care settings including lack of regulatory oversight and common lapses in infection control
Why is this on Public Health’s Radar?

- Healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) have been identified by CDC as a winnable battle

- Goals:
  - Improve adherence to infection prevention guidelines
  - Improve national surveillance
  - Improve capacity at state and local health departments to address HAIs
Attention to Basic Infection Control Must Extend Across the Entire Healthcare Continuum

- Home Care
- Ambulatory Care Facility
- Long-Term Care Facility
- Acute Care Facility
Ambulatory Care – Growth and Concerns

- Approximately 1.2 billion outpatient visits / year
  - Between 1995 and 2007, the average person made four visits to physician offices each year

- Increasingly complex procedures, vulnerable patients
  - Each year more than one million cancer patients receive outpatient chemotherapy and/or radiation therapy

- Lack systematic surveillance to detect infections originating in ambulatory settings

- Expansion of services without parallel increases in attention to and oversight of infection control
  - Many lack written infection control policies and procedures
  - Often no infection control training for staff
Oversight of Ambulatory Care Settings

- Medicare has oversight of a subset of ambulatory care settings, e.g., ambulatory surgical centers (ASCs) and hemodialysis facilities
  - Subject to inspections by state survey agencies (or accrediting organizations) to determine compliance with CMS’s minimum health and safety standards

- Majority of ambulatory care settings operate only under physician’s medical license +/- business license
  - Not subject to routine surveys/inspections
  - In California, ASCs owned by physicians are not licensed by CDPH (Capen vs. Shewry 2007)
  - Therefore, local health departments often investigate infection control concerns in these settings
Infection Risks in Ambulatory Care Settings

• Common theme of outbreaks and notification events
  ▪ Breakdowns in standard procedures / breaches of standards of care
  ▪ Preventable with basic infection control practices
  ▪ Healthcare personnel not aware of their errors

ww.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6109a3
www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/wk/mm60e0301.pdf
### Viral Hepatitis Outbreaks in Outpatient Settings Due to Unsafe Injection Practices, 2001-2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Setting</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NY</td>
<td>Private MD office</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>HCV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NY</td>
<td>Private MD office</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>HBV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NE</td>
<td>Oncology clinic</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>HCV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OK</td>
<td>Pain remediation clinic</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>HBV+HCV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NY</td>
<td>Endoscopy clinic</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>HBV+HCV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CA</td>
<td>Pain remediation clinic</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>HCV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MD</td>
<td>Nuclear imaging</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>HCV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FL</td>
<td>Alternative medicine clinic</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>HBV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CA</td>
<td>Alternative medicine clinic</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>HCV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NY</td>
<td>Endoscopy/surgery clinics</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>HBV+HCV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NY</td>
<td>Pain remediation clinic</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>HCV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NV</td>
<td>Endoscopy clinic</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>HCV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NC</td>
<td>Cardiology clinic</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>HCV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NJ</td>
<td>Oncology clinic</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>HBV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FL</td>
<td>Alternative medicine clinic</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>HCV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CA</td>
<td>Pain remediation clinic</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>HCV+HBV</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Where Lapses Have Occurred That Resulted in Outbreaks and/or Patient Notifications

• **Injection safety**
  - Reuse of syringes (with or without new needles) for multiple patients or to access multidose medication vials or solution containers (e.g., saline bag)
  - Use of single-dose vials for multiple patients
  - Use of a single needle/syringe to administer intravenous medication to multiple patients

• **Equipment reprocessing**
  - Failing to follow the manufacturer’s instructions
  - Failure to pre-clean instruments prior to sterilization or high-level disinfection
  - Failure to use the appropriate connectors between endoscope and AER

• **Point-of-care devices**
  - Using same finger stick devices, insulin pens for >1 person
  - Failure to clean and disinfect blood glucose meters after each use

• **Environmental cleaning**
  - No clearly assigned responsibility for who cleans what and when
To Prevent Transmission of Infections in Healthcare

1 ONE NEEDLE, ONE SYRINGE, ONLY ONE TIME.

Safe Injection Practices Coalition
www.ONEandONLYcampaign.org

Injection Safety is Every Provider’s Responsibility
Ambulatory Care Setting Investigations

- Infection control lapses occur in ambulatory care settings
- Given lack of regulatory oversight, local health departments often investigate
- CDPH can assist with these investigations
Case Review to Identify Possible Healthcare-Associated Acute Hepatitis B and C

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California Department of Public Health
Immunization Branch
Vaccine Preventable Diseases Epidemiology
Case Review

Goal:
Identify possible healthcare-associated hepatitis B and C transmission

Methods:
1. Confirm case - not all reported acute hepatitis B or C cases are actually hepatitis cases or acute cases
2. Obtain information on risk factors for infection
3. Assess need for further investigation
Confirm Acute HBV Cases

- **Acute illness:** Discrete symptom onset and at least one item in each column:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I</th>
<th>II</th>
<th>III</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jaundice ALT &gt;100 IU/L</td>
<td>HBsAg positive</td>
<td>IgM anti-HBc positive (if done)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Seroconversion:** Negative HBsAg result with a positive HBsAg result in the following 6 months; may be asymptomatic
Confirm Acute HCV Cases

- **Acute illness:** Discrete symptom onset and at least one item in each column:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I</th>
<th>II</th>
<th>III</th>
<th>IV</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jaundice</td>
<td>Anti-HCV positive*</td>
<td>IgM anti-HAV negative</td>
<td>IgM anti-HBc negative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALT &gt;400 U/L</td>
<td>HCV RIBA positive</td>
<td>(if done)</td>
<td>(if done)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>HCV RNA positive</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>HCV genotype result</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Seroconversion:** Negative Anti-HCV result with a positive anti-HCV result in the following 6 months; may be asymptomatic

*With signal to cut off ratio specified by CDC: [www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/HCV/LabTesting.htm#section1](http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/HCV/LabTesting.htm#section1)
Collect Information

- Once case is confirmed, contact patient and ask about traditional behavioral risk factors during the incubation period, as well as other possible risk factors:
  - Healthcare exposures
  - Cosmetic procedures
  - Accidents or injuries that may have involved blood exposure
  - Employment/occupation
  - How case thinks infection occurred

- Contact provider:
  - Ask about any previous negative test results
  - Ask about suspected source of infection

- Focus on what occurred during incubation period:
  - Hepatitis B: 45 days – 6 months
  - Hepatitis C: 14 days – 6 months
Additional Information

• If patient denies traditional behavioral risk factors
  ▪ For hepatitis B cases, determine hepatitis B status of sexual and household contacts
  ▪ For hepatitis C cases, determine hepatitis C status of sexual contacts
  ▪ Collect information about healthcare or cosmetic facility names, locations, procedures, and dates care received

• If no field in CalREDIE for data collected on paper form, enter data into comments section

• CDPH Immunization Branch will maintain database of facility names even if no investigation conducted
## Behavioral

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exposure</th>
<th>Vehicle</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Injected drugs, not prescribed</td>
<td>Drug equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noninjected street drugs(^\text{25})</td>
<td>Drug equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incarceration(^\text{26})</td>
<td>Tattoo equipment, Drug equipment, Sex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male sex partners</td>
<td>Sex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female sex partners</td>
<td>Sex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STD treatment</td>
<td>Sex</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Contact of a Case

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exposure</th>
<th>Vehicle</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contact with blood from a suspected or confirmed case</td>
<td>Sex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Drug use equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Razor blades (hepatitis B)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Toothbrushes (hepatitis B)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Accidents and Injuries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exposure</th>
<th>Vehicle</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accidental stick with an object contaminated with blood(^1,^2)</td>
<td>Scalpel, Needle, Tagging gun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other exposure to the blood of another person(^3)</td>
<td>Car accident, Fist fight</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Ask about occupation and employment: healthcare worker or other work with sharps
## Healthcare

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exposure</th>
<th>Vehicle</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transfusion*</td>
<td>Blood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hemodialysis(^4)(^-)(^7)</td>
<td>Surfaces Machine?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospitalization(^8),(^9)</td>
<td>Surfaces Medication Vials Glucose monitors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outpatient procedure (i.e., colonoscopy, endoscopy)(^10)(^-)(^14)</td>
<td>Medication vials Instruments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Injections or infusions prescribed by doctor (^15),(^16)</td>
<td>Medication vials</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Rarely, since new blood screening recommendations were implemented
### Healthcare, continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exposure</th>
<th>Vehicle</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nonroutine dental work or oral surgery(^{17})</td>
<td>Dentist/oral surgeon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other surgery(^{8,9,18})</td>
<td>Medication vials Surgery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finger stick or blood draw(^{19,20})</td>
<td>Glucose monitors Lancets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Podiatric procedures(^{21})</td>
<td>Equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemotherapy(^{22})</td>
<td>Medication vials Needles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acupuncture(^{23})</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Cosmetic

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exposure</th>
<th>Vehicle</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Body piercing(^{24})</td>
<td>Equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tattoo(^{24})</td>
<td>Equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manicure/Pedicure</td>
<td>Equipment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Handmade prison tattoo gun
Identify Red Flags

- Age >50 years
- No traditional behavioral risk factors
- High risk healthcare exposures
  - Glucose monitoring
  - Multidose vials
  - Pain medications
- Patient or physician suspicion
- Linked to facility named by other cases
- Recent seroconversion
A REAL HEPATITIS CASE…
NO BEHAVIORAL RISK FACTORS…
BUT RECENT SURGERY?
MY SPIDEY SENSE IS TINGLING!
What Next?

- If there is suspicion of healthcare-associated transmission, contact CDPH Immunization Branch.
- Secure any available blood specimens from infected persons for possible molecular testing and comparison with specimens from other infected persons.
- If contacts need hepatitis B or C testing and cost is a barrier, CDPH can provide funds for testing.


References


Hepatitis C Case Investigation in an Outpatient Hemodialysis Center

Rebecca Siiteri, RN, MPH
Healthcare Associated Infections Program
California Department of Public Health
Richmond CA
Learning Objective

• Describe CDPH assistance provided to a local health department investigating a cluster of hepatitis C cases among hemodialysis patients
Notification

- July 2012: CDPH HAI Program notified by a local health department of 4 confirmed hepatitis C seroconversions within 4 months at one hemodialysis center

- Survey site visit by Licensing & Certification (L&C) and root cause analysis by hemodialysis center in process at time of report to local health department
  - No deficient practices or transmission events identified
Next Steps

- Local health department requested assistance from HAI Program
  - HAI Program consulted with CDC Hepatitis Branch
    - CDC agreed to provide sequencing of hepatitis C virus in patient blood specimens to determine linkages
  - Initial local public health site visit
    - CDC hemodialysis assessment tool used
    - Limited due to CMS audit on same day
  - Hemodialysis center hepatitis C data from patients were reviewed
  - HAI Program assisted local health department with second site visit
Hemodialysis Center Site Visits

- **Objectives:**
  - Obtain information about surveillance processes, policies and practices
  - Observe infection control practices
  - Identify breaches
  - Provide recommendations to prevent future hepatitis cases
Site Visit Results

- August and September 2012
  - Reviewed infection control changes since June 2012; numerous changes to improve procedures and decrease cross-contamination
  - No deficient practices noted
  - No infection control breaches identified
Molecular Testing Results

• Identical molecular sequencing revealed in all 4 hemodialysis patients
  ▪ Healthcare transmission implicated

• Results led to third site visit by local health department to review patient medical records and identify possible transmission date, time and causes
  ▪ No transmission day or event identified

• Final report with recommendations provided to local health department
Lessons Learned

- CDPH and CDC can assist local health departments with hepatitis case investigations.
- Site visits and medical record review may not identify the transmission event.
- Investigations may help to correct deficient practices even if causal deficiency not identified.