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Please copy and distribute to ALL physicians at your location.

**HEALTH ALERT**

***Burkholderia cepacia* complex Infections Associated with the use of  
Medline Remedy® Essentials No-Rinse Foam**

**Current Situation:**

Clusters of healthcare-associated infection (HAI) with *Burkholderia cepacia* complex (Bcc) associated with the use of Medline Remedy® Essentials No-Rinse Foam have occurred in Pennsylvania and California. The California Department of Public Health HAI Program is working with CDC, state, and local health departments in Pennsylvania and California to investigate Bcc clusters of infections at two acute care hospitals occurring between November 2017 and March 2018. As of March 23, 2018, five of ten patients from the Pennsylvania cluster and six of eight patients from the California cluster have had Bcc isolated from urine; other specimen sites positive for Bcc included wounds and sputum. No patients in either cluster had cystic fibrosis.

The investigation has identified a potential association between Bcc infection and Medline Remedy® Essentials No-Rinse Foam, a product used for skin and perineal care in both hospitals. Samples of this product collected at the Pennsylvania facility from lots M05703/7235 and M06691/7256 tested positive for Bcc. However, it is not known which lots were used on the patients who developed infections. Molecular testing on patient and product isolates indicate that they are closely related. Cultures from additional product are pending. The investigation is ongoing.

To date there are two healthcare-associated *Burkholderia cepacia* complex infections in Ventura County in February and March of this year. One isolate was found in a patient's urine and the other was found in blood. Initial review finds that while the implicated product is not in use at the local institution, several other Remedy® products are being used.

**Recommendations for Health Care Facilities:**

- Consider avoiding use of Medline Remedy® Essentials No-Rinse Foam until the State or CDC pronounces the product to be safe.
- Health care facilities that identify a case of Bcc, especially by positive urine culture, at any time since November, 2017 should notify Ventura County Public Health at 805-981-5201. Bcc cases that occur in patients with cystic fibrosis should not be reported.
- Bcc can be resistant to many common antibiotics, so decisions on treatment should be made on a case-by-case basis.
- Transmission of Bcc from contaminated medicines, products, and devices has been reported. Bcc can also be spread to susceptible persons by:

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- Person-to-person contact
- Contact with contaminated surfaces
- Exposure to Bcc in the environment
- For infection control information go to <https://www.cdc.gov/hai/prevent/prevention.html>

For more information about *Burkholderia cepacia* infections:

<https://www.cdc.gov/HAI/organisms/bCepacia.html>

For more information about Healthcare-associated infections:

<https://www.cdc.gov/hai/index.html>

-This bulletin is intended to improve the public health in our county by keeping physicians and nurses informed of noteworthy diagnoses, disease trends and other events of medical interest. Another goal of a public health department is to educate. We hope that you will use this information to increase your awareness. Please allow us to continue in our role of speaking to the press so that we may maximize the educational message to the benefit of all citizens of Ventura County.

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