PROVIDER ALERT: Hepatitis C Investigation
April 14, 2015

This alert is to notify healthcare providers in Santa Barbara County that we are conducting an investigation into the possibility that one or more patients may have contracted hepatitis C at the medical practice of Dr. Allen Thomashefsky, located at 2320 Bath Street, Santa Barbara. During the investigation, infection control practices were identified which may have exposed patients to the blood of other clinic patients.

We are strongly recommending that patients of Dr. Thomashefsky get tested for hepatitis C, hepatitis B, and HIV. We have separated the patients into the following two groups, based on the date of their last injection procedure, and are conducting two rounds of testing:

ROUND 1 (Approximately 400 Patients)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of last injection procedure:</th>
<th>June 2014- March 2015</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Patient notification letters:</td>
<td>Mailed April 4, 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Location for testing:</td>
<td>Pacific Diagnostic Laboratories*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ordering physician:</td>
<td>Dr. Charity Dean (Public Health Dept.)</td>
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If patient tests positive: We will call them immediately to arrange for further testing. A blood specimen will be sent to the CDC for genetic matching with other potential cases.

If patient tests negative: A letter will be mailed to the patient immediately

Recommended Tests:
- Hepatitis B Panel
- Hepatitis C Antibody
- Hepatitis C RNA (if last injection was less than 6 months ago)
- HIV

*Patients may elect to use their personal physician for ordering these blood tests, but would then assume responsibility for the cost.
ROUND 2 (Approximately 1,300 Patients)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date of last injection procedure: April 2007- May 2014</th>
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<tr>
<td>Patient notification letters: Mailed April 11, 2015</td>
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**Location for testing:** Patient’s personal physician will order blood tests (If patient does not have a primary care provider, they may come to the Public Health Dept. and register as a patient. Payment is on a sliding fee basis.)

**Ordering physician:** Patient’s personal physician

- If patient tests positive: Ordering provider is responsible for notifying their patient of positive result(s) and treatment plan. Providers must also report positive results via the CalREDIE Provider Portal.

- If patient tests negative: Ordering provider is responsible for notifying their patient of results.

**Recommended Tests:**
- Hepatitis B Surface Antigen
- Hepatitis C Antibody (with reflex to HCV RNA Quant)
- HIV

**Adverse Events or Poor Outcomes:** The Public Health Department is also tracking case reports of adverse events associated with injection procedures at Dr. Thomashefsky’s medical practice, including severe bacterial infections. If you know of such an event, please call our information line and include the patient’s name and date of birth. We will follow up on these reports. **Information line: (805) 681-4373**