

Infection Prevention and Control Lapse Update: Continued Recommendation for Possible Testing

Attention: Physicians, Emergency Departments, Infection Control Practitioners, Nurse Practitioners, Walk-In Clinics/Urgent Care Clinics, Family Health Teams, Dentists, Central LHIN, NSM LHIN, Neighbouring Health Units

Date: June 19, 2018

Update June 20, 2018: SMDHU would like to update clinicians that one of the Hepatitis C cases was a child as the clinic in question specializes in pediatric dentistry.

Original Messaging: The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) continues to recommend that patients who have received dental services at the dental clinic, previously known as Joe Philip and Associates located at 18 Wyandotte Street in Orillia between January 1, 2012 and December 18, 2017, discuss possible testing for hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) with their health care provider.

We wish to remind health care providers (and members of the public) of this because of two recent reports of hepatitis C in individuals who received dental services at the clinic between the dates noted above. Both individuals sought testing as a result of the health unit's recommendation in February that patients who attended the clinic between the dates above should consult with a health care professional to discuss possible testing. The original recommendation in February was a result of an investigation by SMDHU that identified that patients who attended the dental clinic between January 1, 2012 and December 18, 2017 may have been exposed to dental instruments that were not cleaned and sterilized properly according to the [Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario infection prevention and control guidelines](#).

Improper cleaning, disinfection and sterilization of medical and dental instruments can spread infectious diseases such as hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV to patients. The risk of infection with disease in this situation is low. However, as a precaution, the SMDHU is still recommending that health care providers consider testing exposed patients for hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV.

On our [website](#) at www.smdhu.org/ipac you will find the Public Health Ontario Laboratory requisition needed. Only 1 requisition and 1 vial of patient's blood is needed to test for the following:

- Hepatitis B acute infection
- Hepatitis C screen
- HIV screen

We recommend that patients also receive counseling regarding risk reduction during the evaluation period, including the recommendation to avoid sharing articles such as clippers, razors, toothbrushes, and the use of barrier protection (such as condoms) during sexual activity.

Clinician resources are available at our website specific for this situation at www.smdhu.org/ipac or on our Health Professionals Portal www.smdhu.org/hpportal.

If you have any further questions please call the SMDHU Communicable Disease Program at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-751-7520 Ext. 8809 or email at: HC.CD@smdhu.org Monday to Friday between 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

