

## Infection Prevention and Control Lapse Update 2: Additional Clinically Relevant Information

**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 22, 2018

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The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) would like to update clinicians with additional clinically relevant information regarding one of the two cases of hepatitis C reported [earlier this week](#).

The two cases sought testing as a result of the health unit's recommendation in February that patients who attended the dental clinic located at 18 Wyandotte Street in Orillia previously known as Joe Philip and Associates between the dates of January 1, 2012 and December 18, 2017 should consult with a health care provider to discuss possible testing. The original and continuing recommendation was a result of an investigation by SMDHU that identified that patients who attended the dental clinic between the above dates 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](#).

**One of the two cases is a child. The child's mother has verified that the child received dental treatment at the clinic during the period of concern. The mother subsequently underwent testing with the results showing her Hepatitis C antibodies to be negative.** The [Canadian Pediatric Society](#) has stated that in Canada, the infection in childhood is now transmitted "almost exclusively by perinatal exposure". However, the mother's negative antibody test for hepatitis C indicates that the child most likely did not contract hepatitis C during pregnancy or at birth. Improperly cleaned and sterilized medical and dental instruments can spread infectious diseases, such as hepatitis B, hepatitis C and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). This is why we continue to recommend that for those patients who received treatment at the clinic between the dates noted above, they should discuss possible testing with a health care provider. While the risk of transmission is low, it is not zero.

Until this week, the SMDHU has not been able to track all the testing done as a result of its February recommendation, as Hepatitis B and C testing can be done both at the public and private labs and we only receive results that are positive. At this time, the SMDHU has requested that tests be done exclusively at the public health lab where an investigation number has been assigned to track all lab results being conducted.

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

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

Clinician resources are available at our website specific for this situation at [www.smdhu.org/ipac](http://www.smdhu.org/ipac) or on our Health Professionals Portal [www.smdhu.org/hpportal](http://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](mailto:HC.CD@smdhu.org) Monday to Friday between 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

