



Nebraska Health and Human Services System

HEALTH ALERT NETWORK

! ALERT !



The following alert was sent to hospitals, local health departments, and the following physician specialties: oncology/hematology, primary care, infectious disease and ER.

January 17, 2008

Public health officials are investigating a nationwide outbreak of *Serratia marcescens* bloodstream infections in patients receiving heparin and saline flushes from pre-filled syringes, including at least four patients in Nebraska. Most have been oncology patients.

CDC has been notified that Am2Pat intends to extend the recall of pre-filled heparin and saline flush syringes to encompass all distributed lots of these products, given concerns that have arisen regarding possible contamination with *Serratia marcescens*. On December 20, 2007, Am2Pat recalled one lot of pre-filled heparin flush syringes (http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/am2pat12_07.html). CDC understands that the recall will now apply to all pre-filled heparin and saline flush syringes made by Am2Pat. These syringes were manufactured by Am2Pat and may be labeled as: Am2Pat, Sierra Pre-filled, or B. Braun. These products will all bear the National Drug Code or NDC prefix of: 64054. They have been distributed to in-patient and out-patient facilities and directly to patients by home care companies.

Patients and clinicians should immediately stop using these products. People who have questions regarding the manufacturer of pre-filled syringes they are using should call the supply company that provided the syringes.

At this time we are asking laboratories to report all *Serratia marcescens* isolated from blood since December 1, 2007 to public health authorities. For labs in Douglas County, please report by phone (444-7214) or fax (444-3287); Lancaster County, phone (441-8053) or fax (441-6267); all other counties, phone (402-471-2937) or fax (402-471-3601). In addition, if the labs still have the *Serratia marcescens* isolates, we request that they forward the isolates to the Nebraska Public Health Laboratory.

Distributed through the Nebraska HHSS, Health Alert Network - (402) 471-1996