ATTENTION: Oakland County Hospital Pharmacies and EMS Providers

ISSUE: It was brought to our attention that the recent contaminated medication causing Fungal Meningitis might also impact drugs being carried by our ALS agencies.

The FDA provided the following statement related to the Fungal Meningitis Outbreak:

“The New England Compounding Center (NECC), following an earlier recommendation by the FDA that none of the firm’s compounded products be used, announced a voluntary recall of all products currently in circulation that were compounded at and distributed from its facility in Farmingham, Massachusetts.

The FDA is working closely with the CDC to investigate an outbreak of meningitis among patients who had received an epidural steroid injection. Investigation into the exact source of the outbreak is still ongoing, but the outbreak is associated with a potentially contaminated medication. Out of an abundance of caution, FDA is taking the additional step of recommending that health care professionals and consumers not use any product that was produced by NECC at this time. In addition, FDA requests that health care professionals retain and secure all remaining products purchased from NECC until FDA provides further instructions regarding the disposition of these products.”

For more information please go to the following website:
http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/ucm322734.htm

In addition, the New England Compounding Center issued the following statement:
“New England Compounding Center (NECC) announced a recall of all products currently in circulation that were compounded at and distributed from its facility in Framingham, Massachusetts…The FDA had previously issued guidance for medical professional that all products distributed by NECC should be retained and secured. While there is no indication at this time of any contamination in other NECC products, this recall is being taken as a precautionary measure. Products from NECC can be identified by markings that indicated NECC by name or acronym.

The OCMCA has surveyed the 14 hospitals in our system and NONE of them purchase medications from NECC. However, it may be possible that hospitals outside our county are restocking the EMS Drug Boxes and they are filtering back into the Oakland County EMS System.

In effort to make the safest possible environment for our patients the OCMCA will ask that EMS Coordinators share this information your EMS providers. Please ask them to be double check medications that they give to patients for the logo shown above. If they find any medications from NECC and the patient is in a critical life threatening need for that medication the EMS provider should contact on-line medical control to help evaluate the risks and benefits, in consideration of the patient’s condition. Also report the identified medication to the hospital pharmacy.

**Oakland County Hospital Pharmacies**
1. Please verify that the EMS Drug Boxes you have in stock and the boxes being exchanged do not have any NECC products in them.
2. After the EMS Drug Box has been confirmed to be in accordance with the FDA’s recall please label the box “Recall Compliant” and include the date of compliance.
3. Work with EMS Agencies to verify that all EMS Drug Boxes are “Recall Compliant”.

**EMS Coordinators (ALS Life Support Agencies Only):**
1. Contact your Medical Control Hospital to schedule a time to have your EMS Drug Boxes checked for any potential recall items.
2. Advise EMS Providers to look for “Recall Compliant” labeling when exchanging their EMS Drug Boxes.

**PLEASE CONTACT THE OCMCA FOR ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS**