

Infection control breaches in a Sydney dental practice: Information for general practitioners

Please distribute this information to all staff

1. Multiple infection control breaches likely occurring over an extended period have been identified at the dental practice of Dr James Pok-Yan Ng at 90 Ramsay Street, Haberfield.
2. The risk of transmission of blood borne viruses (hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and HIV) is low.
3. Patients of Dr Ng's practice, particularly those who have had invasive procedures, should be tested for blood borne viruses.

Infection control breaches in a Sydney dental practice

- Multiple breaches of infection control likely occurring over an extended period have been identified at the Haberfield dental practice of Dr James Ng, at which Dr Tony Sao-Fai Chiu has also been practising.
- The NSW Blood Borne Viruses Advisory Panel has assessed that there is a low risk of blood borne virus transmission to patients treated at the Haberfield practice.
- The Chief Health Officer has issued a warning to patients of this practice, advising them to be screened for blood borne viruses, particularly those who have had an invasive procedure.
- To date, no cases of blood borne virus infection have been identified as associated with this practice.
- The Dental Council of NSW has suspended Dr Ng's dental registration and the practice has closed.

Who should I test for blood borne viruses?

- Testing is recommended for any patient who has ever visited the Haberfield-based practice for dental treatment, particularly those who have had invasive procedures, such as those involving a needle or other instrument piercing the skin, gums or tooth pulp/root, or any other procedure where bleeding may have occurred.
- This practice has been operating for approximately 35 years.

How should I test my patients and provide follow-up?

- For patients who have undergone any dental procedures at this practice, please arrange serology for hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and HIV; indicate on the pathology test request that the person is a patient of Dr Ng's dental practice in Haberfield.
- Reassure the patient that their risk of blood borne virus acquisition through this dental practice is low.
- Some patients seeking testing may already have undiagnosed viral hepatitis unrelated to dental treatment.
- If any of the affected patients tests positive for hepatitis B, hepatitis C, or HIV, please contact your local public health unit on 1300 066 055.

Further Information

- For further information, please see the NSW Health website at: <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious> or call the NSW Health hotline on 1800 610 344.



Dr Zeina Najjar
A/Director, Public Health Unit
8 August 2018