

GP Alert 17 October 2016

Population Health
Public Health Unit

Infection control breaches in Bankstown dental practices operated by Dr Chau Bao Dinh

Key Points for GPs

1. Infection control breaches have been identified at a dental practice located at Liberty Plaza Bankstown operated by Dr Chau Bao (Paul) Dinh. It is likely that similar problems have occurred over an extended period at a number of premises where the dentist worked
2. The risk of transmission of blood-borne viruses (hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV) to any individual patient is considered to be low
3. Patients who have had invasive procedures at any of Dr Chau Bao Dinh's Bankstown dental practices have been advised to present to their GP for testing

- Breaches of infection control have been identified at the *Liberty Plaza* dental practice (Unit 45, 256 Chapel Road Bankstown) operated by Dr Chao Bau Dinh from July 2014. It is likely that similar problems have occurred at other locations where Dr Dinh previously practised; these are thought to be Unit 4, 324 Chapel Rd, Bankstown from 1998 to July 2014 and Fetherstone Rd, Bankstown prior to 1998. The NSW Dental Council has suspended the registration of Dr Dinh.
- The NSW Health Blood Borne Viruses Advisory Panel have advised that there is a low risk of blood borne virus transmission for patients who underwent invasive procedures at any of Dr Dinh's practices.
- Invasive procedures are procedures where a needle or other instrument pierces the skin, gums or tooth pulp/root, or where bleeding occurs. Patients who have had only non-invasive procedures such as simple removal of plaque without bleeding, routine examination, x-rays and placement of crowns are considered to be at negligible risk.
- To date, no cases of blood-borne virus infection have been identified that were associated with Dr Dinh's dental practices.
- South Western Sydney Public Health Unit has sent letters to patients who had attended the Liberty Plaza practice and for whom contact details were available, advising them of the risk of blood-borne virus transmission. Testing for hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV has been recommended for patients who have had one or more invasive dental procedures.
- NSW Dental Council and South Western Sydney Local Health District jointly issued a media release on 17/10/2016 to notify patients of Dr Dinh of their risks and to seek advice from their doctor if they believe they may have had an invasive procedure at one of Dr Dinh's practices.

Who should I test for blood-borne viruses?

- Patients who believe they may have had **at least one** invasive procedure at any of Dr Dinh's practices should be tested for blood borne viruses.
- Unless you and the patient are clear that they have had no invasive procedures, testing is warranted as a precaution.
- Some patients seeking testing may already have undiagnosed viral hepatitis unrelated to dental treatment. Blood borne virus prevalence is higher amongst certain migrant populations. A single lifetime hepatitis B screening test is recommended for at-risk migrant populations; see <http://testingportal.ashm.org.au/hbv/indications-for-hbv-testing>

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

- For patients who believe they have had invasive dental procedures at any of Dr Dinh's practices, please arrange serology for hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV.
- Provide reassurance to the patients that their risk of blood-borne virus acquisition through these dental practices is low and effective treatment is available should they test positive.
- If any of the dental patients test positive for one of these infections, please contact your local public health unit on 1300 066 055.

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