



## Department of Health

**ANDREW M. CUOMO**  
Governor

**HOWARD A. ZUCKER, M.D., J.D.**  
Commissioner

**SALLY DRESLIN, M.S., R.N.**  
Executive Deputy Commissioner

October 2, 2016

Dear Administrator:

Below you will find suggested language for a message to notify patients discharged from your facility that they may have received intravenous treatments contaminated by the *Burkholderia cepacia* bacteria. We advise that you contact patients who you believe could have been exposed.

Suggested Language:

"We have learned that a medication or solution that you received through your IV while at <<**facility name**>> might have been contaminated with a bacteria called *Burkholderia cepacia*. The potentially contaminated product could have been given at some time between August 29 and September 29.

Symptoms of infection include fever, chills, fast breathing, stomach pain, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, confusion, weakness, or a general feeling that you are unwell. Symptoms are mild for some patients and more severe for others.

People who get sick from a contaminated product are most likely to experience symptoms within a few days of having received the medication. However, if you feel sick with these or other concerning symptoms any time during the next several weeks, please see your healthcare provider right away and tell him or her about this letter/call.

If you are not experiencing any of these symptoms, then it is unlikely you have contracted *Burkholderia cepacia*. However, we will contact you if any action on your part is necessary."

Sincerely,

Shelly Glock  
Director  
Division of Nursing Homes and Intermediate  
Care Facilities/IID  
New York State Department of Health

Valerie Deetz  
Director  
Division of Adult Care Facilities and  
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