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Possible Blood Borne Pathogen Risk in a Manchester Orthodontic Practice

NH Division of Public Health Services (NH DPHS) recommends:

1. Awareness that on April 28, 2014, the State of New Hampshire Board of Dental Examiners suspended the license of a Manchester orthodontist because inadequate infection control practices were documented during an unannounced inspection.
2. Anticipation that patients may have questions about whether they may have been infected if they had care at this orthodontic practice.
3. Patients who have received dental care at this practice are advised to contact their healthcare provider to discuss testing for Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, and HIV. Healthcare providers who offer testing to patients may use routinely available screening methods (e.g., hepatitis B surface antigen, hepatitis C antibody and HIV antibody).
4. Healthcare providers should report any blood borne pathogen infections that may be associated with this practice by contacting the Bureau of Infectious Disease Control at 603-271-4496 (after hours 1-800-852-3345 ext. 5300).

Situation:

On April 28, 2014, NH DPHS was notified that the State of New Hampshire Board of Dental Examiners suspended the license of Dr. Nicholas Marshall, Jr., an orthodontist who practices at 835 Hanover Street #202, Manchester, NH. The reason for closure was inadequate infection control practices that were documented during an unannounced inspection on April 24, 2014. NH DPHS and the City of Manchester Health Department have conducted a preliminary investigation and determined that recommended monitoring was not performed on units used to sterilize patient care equipment and that sterility of patient care equipment could not be assured.

Recommendations:

There is no current evidence that any patient has acquired disease from this orthodontic practice and preliminary findings suggest that risk of exposure to blood borne pathogens for patients is very low, though not zero. Therefore, NH DPHS recommends that clinicians discuss testing options with their patients who report having received dental care at this practice from 1986 through April 28, 2014. Healthcare providers who offer testing to patients may use routinely available screening methods, including hepatitis B surface antigen, hepatitis C antibody, and HIV antibody.

NH DPHS requests that clinicians report blood borne pathogen infections that may be associated with having received care at this orthodontic practice by contacting the Bureau of Infectious Disease Control at 603-271-4496 (after hours 1-800-852-3345 ext. 5300).

This investigation is ongoing and updates will be provided as necessary.

NH DPHS and partners have developed an FAQ for use with your patients. The FAQ is attached to this message and updated versions will be available at <http://www.dhhs.state.nh.us>.

- ▶ For any questions regarding the contents of this message, please contact NH DHHS, DPHS, Bureau of Infectious Disease Control at 603-271-4496 (after hours 1-800-852-3345 ext.5300).
- ▶ To change your contact information in the NH Health Alert Network, contact Denise Krol at 603-271-4596 or email Denise.Krol@dhhs.state.nh.us

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From: Elizabeth A. Talbot, MD – Deputy State Epidemiologist
Originating Agency: NH Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health Services

Attachments: Manchester Dental Investigation Frequently Asked Questions 05-05-2014



New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services
May 5, 2014

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding
Dr. Nicholas Marshall, Jr. Orthodontic Office

What happened at this orthodontist's office?

During an unannounced inspection by the Board of Dental Examiners and the Attorney General's office of Dr. Nicholas Marshall's office at 835 Hanover St. Suite 202, Manchester, NH, inadequate infection control practices were observed. Public health officials were notified to investigate to see if any patients were at risk of contracting an infectious disease because of this situation.

Am I at risk for developing an infectious disease if I was a patient there?

The Division of Public Health Services (DPHS) at DHHS and the Manchester Health Department (MHD) are currently methodically investigating to determine any risk to the public's health. Based on preliminary information, we believe the risk that patients were exposed to blood borne diseases such as hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and HIV is very low. If, during the course of the investigation recommendations change, we will notify the public.

How would these blood borne diseases be transmitted during dental care?

Bleeding can accompany certain dental procedures; however bleeding is less likely during orthodontic procedures than in general dentistry. There may be a chance of disease transmission if one patient with a blood borne disease bleeds during a procedure and the equipment used is not completely sterilized before being used on another patient who bleeds. Information collected by DPHS and the Manchester Health Department suggests that the risk of this having occurred is very low.

Do I need to be tested?

Risk is very low, but we cannot guarantee that there is no risk. DPHS recommends that if you were a patient of Dr. Nicholas Marshall, Jr. you should contact your healthcare provider to discuss whether you should be tested for hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and HIV. Testing involves taking a blood sample and a swab of your mouth.

How accurate is testing for these diseases?

The tests for these diseases are very accurate, although no test is perfect.

I don't have a healthcare provider, what do I do?

Patients without a primary care physician (PCP) and without insurance should call 603-271-9461 (toll free 1-800-852-3345 ext. 9461) Monday-Friday 8:00 am-4:00 pm for more information.

Who is going to pay for my laboratory testing?

Most insurance companies cover testing for this type of potential exposure in a healthcare setting. If you have no insurance or healthcare provider please call 603-271-9461 (toll free 1-800-852-3345 ext. 9461) Monday–Friday 8:00 am–4:00 pm to arrange testing.

I already know that I am infected with hepatitis B, hepatitis C, or HIV. Did I get it through treatment with Dr. Nicholas Marshall, Jr.?

If you have one of these diseases and are concerned you may have acquired your illness through treatment with Dr. Nicholas Marshall, Jr, you should call 603-271-9461 (toll free 1-800-852-3345 ext. 9461) Monday–Friday 8:00 am–4:00 pm to discuss the details of your situation with a public health professional.

If I am infected with hepatitis B, hepatitis C, or HIV, how do I keep from giving it to others?

These infections are primarily spread through the exchange of blood. Therefore, you can reduce your chances of passing on these infections by not exchanging blood through activities such as injection drug use, engaging in sex with bleeding present, and sharing personal items like razors and toothbrushes.

Will Dr. Nicholas Marshall’s office reopen?

The NH Board of Dental Examiners has temporarily suspended Dr. Nicholas Marshall, Jr.’s license to practice in New Hampshire on April 28, 2014. A hearing to discuss this matter is scheduled for May 22, 2014.

How do I find another orthodontist, especially one that will take Medicaid?

NH Medicaid clients should call the client services number at 603-271-4344 (toll free 1-800-852-3345 ext. 4344). Non-Medicaid patients should speak to their regular dentist or insurance company to identify an appropriate provider of orthodontic services.