

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

In follow-up to a telephone outreach campaign conducted by Exeter Hospital, we are writing today to share with you potentially important health information.

Exeter Hospital recently identified four people who were patients at the hospital over a several month period and who were recently diagnosed with hepatitis C. Due to common elements in their clinical history, Exeter Hospital reported the cases to the New Hampshire Division of Public Health Services to seek their assistance.

Testing by the Division of Public Health Services has confirmed that all four cases share an identical strain, which means they were infected by the same source. We are currently working with the experts at Public Health to investigate and determine the source of the infection. The common place of connection identified to date is the Cardiac Cath Lab and its recovery unit.

As part of the investigation, together with the Division of Public Health Services, we are reaching out to all patients who received care in the Cardiac Cath Lab since August 1, 2011 to recommend that you return for hepatitis C testing. It is very important for you to be tested because people with hepatitis C do not always have symptoms.

Exeter Hospital is providing confidential testing at no charge. In an effort to make the screening as convenient as possible we have arranged for multiple dates and times. Test results could take 7-10 days and results will be sent directly to your primary care physician.

Please call Exeter Hospital's **Information and Referral Center at (603) 580-6124** to schedule a time to have blood taken for this test. We have staff available to assist you at the Referral Center between the hours of 7:00am and 7:00pm Monday through Friday.

If you prefer to have your own healthcare provider do the testing, that is fine. Please ask them to send the samples to the NH Public Health Laboratories for testing and indicate it is related to Exeter Hospital. The PH laboratories will process any appropriate labeled sample of a patient whose testing is indicated as part of this investigation.

We are working closely with the New Hampshire Division of Public Health. If you have questions, please feel free to call them directly at (603) 271-4496.