

Center for Policy, Planning and Evaluation
Division of Epidemiology – Disease Surveillance and Investigation

July 20, 2018

Health Notice for District of Columbia Healthcare Providers
CALL FOR CASES:
***Acinetobacter Calcoaceticus-Baumannii* (ACB) Complex Sepsis**
Associated with Platelet Transfusion

Summary

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is working with two states in investigating potential *Acinetobacter calcoaceticus-Acinetobacter baumannii* (ACB) complex transmission through platelet transfusion and has issued a nationwide call for cases. Please report any patients who developed or develop sepsis due to ACB complex infection within 24 hours of receiving platelets during any point in 2018 to the DC Health HAI Program.

Background

CDC is investigating reports of potential *Acinetobacter calcoaceticus-Acinetobacter baumannii* (ACB) complex transmission through platelet transfusion. Two cases in 2 states are being investigated; DC has had not identified any cases to date.

The patients in both reported instances developed sepsis during or shortly after transfusion of platelets in May 2018. ACB complex was identified from patient blood cultures and cultures of the residual platelets bags transfused to the patients.

DC Health is requesting that health care providers, hospital blood banks, and laboratories submit a report to DC RedCap if they have had any patients in 2018 (previously and moving forward) who developed evidence of sepsis due to ACB complex infections after having received platelet transfusions within 24 hours prior to onset of symptoms.

Species within ACB complex, including *A. baumannii*, *A. pittii*, *A. nosocomialis*, and *A. seifertii* can be difficult to distinguish without advanced molecular techniques. If a contaminated blood product results in sepsis in a patient, symptoms usually occur during the transfusion or within 4 hours afterward, but may occur later.¹

Request of Healthcare Providers (including blood banks and clinical laboratories)

Retrospective Case Finding

- Review any past cases of sepsis that occurred anytime from January 1, 2018 to present and identify those that were due to ACB complex infection within 24 hours of receiving platelet transfusions.
- Report any identified past cases to the DC Health HAI Program by using the online Notifiable Disease and Condition Case Report Form:
<https://dchealth.dc.gov/service/infectious-diseases>.
 - Please use “OTHER” and specify “ACB sepsis” when submitting the Clinical/Suspected diagnosis

- Questions can be sent to the DC Health HAI Program by sending an email to DOH.HAI@dc.gov or calling 202-727-3919.

Prospective Case Reporting

- Report any new cases of patients who develop evidence of sepsis due to ACB complex infection within 24 hours of receiving platelet transfusions to the DC Health HAI Program by using the online Notifiable Disease and Condition Case Report Form: <https://dchealth.dc.gov/service/infectious-diseases>.
 - Please use “OTHER” and specify “ACB sepsis” when submitting the Clinical/Suspected diagnosis
- Questions can be sent to the DC Health HAI Program by sending an email to DOH.HAI@dc.gov or calling 202-727-3919.

Reference

1. National Healthcare Safety Network Biovigilance Component Hemovigilance Module Surveillance Protocol
<https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/pdfs/biovigilance/bv-hv-protocol-current.pdf> (pg 20)

**Please contact the DC Health
Division of Epidemiology–Disease Surveillance and Investigation
Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAI) Program for more information:**

**Phone: 202-727-3919 (business hours) | 1-844-493-2652 (after-hours calls)
Fax: 202-442-8060 | Email: DOH.HAI@dc.gov**