DC HEALTH
GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

March 10, 2025

Call for Cases from District of Columbia Healthcare Providers
Monitoring Adverse Events Following Ceftriaxone Administration

SUMMARY

DC Health, in collaboration with the CDC and other state health departments, is requesting reports of serious adverse events following the administration of injectable ceftriaxone. To date, Alabama is the only state known to be currently investigating reports of potential adverse events. All of which are following ceftriaxone injections. At present, there is no confirmed causal link between ceftriaxone and the reported cases, and no single manufacturer or lot has been implicated. Healthcare providers are encouraged to remain aware and report any relevant cases to support ongoing public health investigations.

At this time, ceftriaxone remains a safe and widely used antibiotic. No changes to prescribing practices are recommended. As a precaution, healthcare professionals should ensure appropriate monitoring of patients following administration and report any unexpected adverse events.

BACKGROUND

Ceftriaxone is a commonly used cephalosporin antibiotic effective against a broad range of bacterial infections. Recent reports from Alabama, Georgia, and other states have described serious adverse events. This includes cases requiring cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and, in some instances, fatalities. These events occurred within six hours of administration in non-ICU settings. Further investigation is ongoing to better understand the circumstances. DC Health is working with the CDC and state health departments to gather additional information and ensure appropriate public health measures.

REQUEST FROM HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

Healthcare providers should continue to use ceftriaxone where clinically indicated but may take the following measures:

- Monitor patients after administration
- Be vigilant for signs of hypersensitivity reactions, respiratory distress, or cardiovascular instability after Ceftriaxone administration.
- While adverse reactions to ceftriaxone are rare, providers are encouraged to report any cases of unusual adverse events.
- Adhere to best practices for antibiotic administration, including correct dosing, infusion techniques, and patient selection.
- Inform patients and staff about potential rare adverse events while reinforcing that ceftriaxone remains a safe and effective treatment.

- Encourage patients to report any concerning symptoms soon after administration.

For comprehensive information on ceftriaxone, including its indications, dosage, administration, and detailed adverse events, please refer to the FDA-approved prescribing information available at:

https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/label/2014/065169s022lbl.pdf

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Healthcare providers are encouraged to report suspected cases that meet all three of the following criteria, occurring after September 1, 2024:

- Occurred within six hours after injectable ceftriaxone administration in a non-ICU setting.
- Resulted in death or required cardiopulmonary resuscitation.
- Not attributed to another clear cause by the treating provider.

To report adverse events, call DC Health at 844-493-2652 and reports should be submitted to:

- FDA MedWatch Program – https://www.fda.gov/safety/medwatch-fda-safety-information-and-adverse-event-reporting-program

DC Health will request a completed clinical data collection and may also ask for medication vial details/photographs and /leftover vials. Reports will assist in ongoing surveillance efforts to ensure patient safety.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Merck Manual Professional Version. (2025). Cephalosporins: Uses, adverse effects, and interactions. Retrieved from https://www.merckmanuals.com/professional/infectious-diseases/bacteria-and-antibacterial-medications/cephalosporins
- FDA MedWatch. (2025). Safety reporting program for adverse drug events. Retrieved from https://www.fda.gov/safety/medwatch/
- PubMed (National Library of Medicine). (2011). A ten-year review of adverse reactions to ceftriaxone. Retrieved from https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/22122488/

Please contact the DC Health Division of Epidemiology-Disease Surveillance and Investigation at:
Phone: 844-493-2652 | Fax: (202) 442-8060 | Email: doh.epi@dc.gov