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Dermatology
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May 13, 2020

Dear patient:

You are receiving this letter because our records show that you were a patient of my medical dermatology clinic located at either 885 Regent Street, Sudbury, ON or at my current location, 336 Pine Street, Sudbury, ON in the following time periods: June 21, 2006, to June 30, 2010, inclusive, or March 5, 2018, to January 24, 2020, inclusive.

While visiting my clinic, you may have received a medical procedure(s) requiring injection of local anaesthetic (numbing medication) and may have been operated on by either Dr. Rose Yesovitch, Dr. Jennifer McGarry, Dr. Sanjay Siddha, Dr. Michael Cecchini, or me, Dr. Lyne Giroux.

It has recently come to my attention that during the time periods listed above, an improper and outdated infection control practice may have been followed by a nurse on our staff while preparing injections of local anesthetic. Due to this improper and outdated procedure there is the potential for you to have been exposed to blood-borne infections such as hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Upon discovering this improper practice, in an abundance of precaution, I notified Public Health. We have included a fact sheet for your review.

I understand that even with the potential for a risk, this news can be concerning. Your health and the health of all my patients is my greatest concern, and I am committed to supporting you through the follow-up described in this letter. We are working very closely with Public Health Sudbury & Districts to ensure you have the information you need.

What to do:

1. Please review this letter and factsheet to decide if you want to have a blood test done. If you still need more information or counselling, call your local public health unit. You can find your local public health unit by visiting <https://www.phdapps.health.gov.on.ca/PHULocator/>. You can also contact your primary health care provider and book a virtual appointment to discuss further. If you wish to discuss this notice with your primary health care provider, please share the details of this letter with them.
2. If you decide to be tested:
 - a. Make an appointment directly with a local lab to get a blood sample taken. Some labs will allow for online booking of appointments.
 - b. Bring the attached lab requisition and your health card with you to your appointment, and follow any COVID-19 prevention instructions the lab may provide.
 - c. The lab requisition is already signed so you do not need to see your primary health care provider first.

- d. You do not need to prepare in advance (for example, fasting) before you get your blood sample taken.
3. After your test is done, and if you are attending LifeLabs, you may view your test results through their "See My Results" online service. It could take up to two weeks for your lab results to be available.
4. I will receive your results, and I or a member of my team will call you directly only if there is a concern. Your local public health unit will also be in touch with you if your results come back positive. You will not be called if your results are negative.

Public Health Sudbury & Districts has advised us that they are not aware of any cases of hepatitis B, hepatitis C, or HIV infection related to this improper infection control practice. This notice is a precaution and provides you the information you need to decide if you want to be tested. Testing will tell you if you are infected, which can help you make decisions about treatment and any precautions you could take to prevent spreading infection. Please refer to the attached factsheet for more information. Please also note that testing for hepatitis B, hepatitis C, or HIV will not tell you where, when, or how you were infected.

If you believe you received this letter by mistake, please contact my office at 705.669.0002 to discuss further

- This notice only applies to patients of the medical dermatology side of my practice who had a surgery or biopsy on Pine or Regent Street and DOES NOT apply to clients who received cosmetic treatments.
- This notice also DOES NOT apply to patients who received medical dermatology related treatments between July 1, 2010, and March 2, 2018, inclusive.

Our medical clinic continues to work closely with Public Health Sudbury & Districts to ensure all infection prevention and control practices are being followed. There are no ongoing risks to patient safety due to this improper infection prevention practice. This nurse is also no longer employed with me.

I have always strived to and will continue to maintain the highest standards of care in my practice. I was dismayed to discover this unfortunate occurrence and will do all I can to support you in your follow-up to this letter.

Sincerely,

Lyne Giroux, BSc, MD, FRCP(C)

Encl.

cc: Dr. Penny Sutcliffe, Medical Officer of Health, Public Health Sudbury & Districts