

LAS VEGAS HEPATITIS C OUTBREAK 2008 STATE PERSPECTIVE

**Presented by Bob Salcido, MPH
Nevada State Health Division
NASTAD Hepatitis TA Meeting
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Outbreak Chronology

- ▣ January 2- 2 cases of acute hepatitis C identified. Six acute HCV cases in January associated with an Endoscopy Center. Identified from routine CD surveillance
- ▣ January 9- Joint investigation NSHD, SNHD, CDC. Assess infection control practices of Ambulatory Surgical Centers (ASC) in Las Vegas.
- ▣ January 17-March 20- State Bureau of Licensure and Certification (BLC) surveyed all 50 ASCs statewide. Updates daily.

Outbreak Chronology

- ▣ February 27- Southern NV Health District (SNHD) informed the media that 40,000 letters would be mailed to patients of the ASC that recommend that they be tested for HCV, HBV, HIV.
- ▣ The SNHD activated their Emergency Operations Center.
- ▣ Outbreak summary in MMWR, May 16, 2008.

Outbreak Response–March 2008

- ▣ Inundated with thousands of calls from the public during March. State Staff on call 24 hours.
- ▣ Daily calls from the media (PIO).
- ▣ State Legislative Health Committee convened public meetings.
- ▣ Community hepatitis forums held.
- ▣ State BLC completed all ASC surveys by March 20. Other inspections by CMS.

Outbreak Response–March 2008

- ▣ ASC survey results posted on the State Health Division website (survey results confusing to public).
- ▣ Daily update meetings with the SNHD, other health authorities, CDC, BLC.
- ▣ Hepatitis C Overview in NV. Updated hepatitis website. Moved to home page.

Medical Response

- ▣ The medical community worked collaboratively with the State and SNHD.
- ▣ HMOs committed resources for hepatitis testing and nurse consultations. \$50,000 to FQHC for testing.
- ▣ State Medicare extended policies for testing under Local Medical Review Policies (LMRP).

Medical & Community Response

- ▣ Clinical Laboratories developed procedures to identify persons recommended for testing. Extended work hours to evenings and weekends.
- ▣ Private medical providers extended their hours of operation for clients. Assisted with community education forums.
- ▣ Community advocacy groups worked with state and county health authorities. (Hepatitis forums). This included out-of-state hepatitis advocacy groups.

Lessons Learned

- ▣ The emergency response that was activated in Clark Co. allowed for the coordination of many simultaneous activities in an efficient manner.
- ▣ Good communication between State, SNHD, CDC. Daily updates.
- ▣ Activation of the EOC improved the emergency response by allowing more staff to assist with outbreak activities and assignments (e.g., track and ensure follow-up of assignments, reporting).
- ▣ Excellent use of the SNHD and State websites to disseminate information to the public.

Hepatitis C Outbreak Investigation

- ▣ Nine (9) acute cases of hepatitis C indentified from presumed exposure at one Endoscopy Center in Las Vegas. All ASCs surveyed.
- ▣ Over 400 persons tested HCV +, 88 of these persons had no identifiable risk and are considered part of the outbreak cases. Investigation on going.
- ▣ Health-care education of infection control practices.