



National Association of Boards of Pharmacy

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nabp

TO: EXECUTIVE OFFICERS – STATE BOARDS OF PHARMACY

FROM: Carmen A. Catizone, Executive Director/Secretary

DATE: October 4, 2012

RE: New England Compounding Center Linked to Meningitis Outbreak

It has come to the attention of the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP) that a meningitis outbreak that has stricken 26 people in five states, leaving four individuals dead, has been reported to be caused by intrathecal methylprednisolone injections compounded by the New England Compounding Center (NECC) located in Framingham MA.

Of the 26 reported cases since July 2012, a total of 18 have occurred in Tennessee with the other eight spread across North Carolina, Florida, Virginia and Maryland.

NECC has released a statement claiming that it “is working closely with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, the Massachusetts Board of Pharmacy and other regulators to identify the source of infection in patients who received injections of methylprednisolone acetate. Upon notification of incidents of infection, NECC immediately initiated a voluntary recall of this product on Sept. 26. As part of this process, we have voluntarily suspended operations while we assist authorities in their investigation.”

On October 3, 2012, the North Carolina Board of Pharmacy summarily suspended NECC’s permit. The Board’s order can be found at www.ncbop.org/.

NECC reported to the Massachusetts Board that these products were provided to facilities in CA, CT, FL, GA, ID, IL, IN, MD, MI, MN, NH, NC, NJ, NY, OH, NV, PA, RI, SC, TN, TX, VA, and WV. The lot numbers of the drug that are suspected of being contaminated are:

- 05212012@68
- 06292012@26
- 08102012@51

NABP strongly advises that you inform all of your licensees about this recall in order to protect the public health by ensuring that no additional product is dispensed.

cc: NABP Executive Committee