MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

This is an official
MS Health Alert Network (HAN) – Alert

MESSAGE ID:

RECIPIENTS: **All Physicians, Hospitals, ERs, ICPs, NPs, PAs, and Healthcare Providers – Statewide**
Tuesday, May 29, 2025

SUBJECT: **Reports of Paraburkholderia fungorum Associated with Non-sterile Ultrasound Gel — Multiple States, 2024–2025**

Reports of Paraburkholderia fungorum Associated with Non-sterile Ultrasound Gel — Multiple States, 2024–2025

CDC is assisting with an ongoing multistate investigation involving the use of non-sterile ultrasound gel for ultrasound-guided percutaneous procedures (procedures that involve puncturing the skin).

As of May 8, 2025, CDC is aware of 40 isolates of Paraburkholderia fungorum (an environmental bacterium formerly known as Burkholderia fungorum) primarily isolated from patient blood cultures. These isolates are linked by whole-genome sequencing and are from patients in four U.S. states and two other countries. Product testing across these jurisdictions has isolated P. fungorum from two non-sterile ultrasound gel products (MediChoice® and ClearImage®, both manufactured by NEXT Medical Products Company [Branchburg, NJ]); these product isolates are also genetically related to the P. fungorum patient isolates. Further investigation by healthcare facilities confirmed that some of these patients had undergone ultrasound-guided percutaneous procedures prior to blood culture collection. CDC, along with state and local health departments, continues to investigate this issue in collaboration with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Healthcare providers should use only sterile ultrasound gel for percutaneous procedures. Please visit https://www.cdc.gov/healthcare-associated-infections/bulletins/outbreak-ultrasound-gel.html for further information about this outbreak, as well as specific considerations for healthcare providers regarding the use of ultrasound gel.

Healthcare facilities should report any adverse events or quality problems experienced with the use of ultrasound gel products to the product manufacturer and the FDA's MedWatch Adverse Event Reporting program.

Recommendations for healthcare providers

Safety alert

1. Use only single-use ultrasound gel products labeled as "sterile" for ultrasonography in preparation for or during percutaneous procedures (e.g., placement of central and peripheral intravenous lines, amniocentesis, paracentesis, tissue biopsy, and surgical procedures).

2. Healthcare providers who perform ultrasounds and/or ultrasound-associated procedures should be trained in the appropriate use of ultrasound gel products.

3. An ultrasound gel product label's claim of "bacteriostatic" or "preservative" without a specific indication of sterility should be considered non-sterile for clinical purposes.

Additional resources

Considerations related to the use of ultrasound gel in healthcare facilities can be found in this CDC MMWR article.

Facilities should report any adverse events or quality problems experienced with the use of any ultrasound gel products to the product manufacturer and FDA's MedWatch Adverse Event Reporting program.