



## Fact Sheet

# What you should know about *Burkholderia cepacia* infection

### About *Burkholderia cepacia* (*B. cepacia*)

*B. cepacia* is the name for a group or "complex" of bacteria that can be found in soil and water. *B. cepacia* bacteria are often resistant to common antibiotics.

### Populations susceptible to *B. cepacia* infection

*B. cepacia* poses little medical risk to healthy people. However, people who have certain health problems like weakened immune systems or chronic lung diseases, particularly cystic fibrosis (CF), may be more susceptible to infections with *B. cepacia*. *B. cepacia* is a known cause of infections in hospitalized patients.

### Symptoms of *B. cepacia* infection

The effects of *B. cepacia* on people vary widely, ranging from no symptoms at all, to serious respiratory infections, especially in patients with CF.

### How *B. cepacia* infection is spread

Transmission of *B. cepacia* from contaminated medicines and devices has been reported.

CDC has been notified of reported cases of *B. cepacia* infection associated with contaminated over-the-counter nasal spray, distributed as Major Twice-a-Day 12 Hour Nasal Spray. There have been reports of human infection with *B. cepacia* associated with this nasal spray in Colorado and Missouri. The manufacturer, Propharma Inc., has recalled lot numbers E4410, F4433, H4464, K4496, L4529, L4535, M4536, A4558, A4588, and B4597 of this product.

In 1996-1998, reported cases of *B. cepacia* infection were associated with contaminated mouthwash. (See <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/00055575.htm>.)

For a comprehensive list medicines and devices that have been associated with *B. cepacia* contamination, see p. 43 of CDC's Environmental Guidelines for Healthcare Facilities at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/hip/enviro/guide.htm>.

*B. cepacia* can also be spread to susceptible persons by

- person-to-person contact
- contact with contaminated surfaces
- exposure to *B. cepacia* in the environment

Careful attention to infection control procedures like hand hygiene can help reduce the risk of transmission of this organism. For more information on hand hygiene and infection control practices see, <http://www.cdc.gov/handhygiene/> and <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/hip/ISOLAT/Isolat.htm>.

### Treatment of *B. cepacia* infection

*B. cepacia* can be resistant to many common antibiotics. Decisions on the treatment of infections with *B. cepacia* should be made on a case-by-case basis.

## **Burkholderia cepacia**

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### **What CDC is doing**

CDC has issued a CDC Health Advisory about the current recall of contaminated nasal spray and is working with state and local health departments to monitor reported cases of infection. CDC is also working with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on this issue.

### **For more information:**

See the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation's Web site at

[http://www.cff.org/living\\_with\\_cf/B\\_cepacia\\_faq.cfm](http://www.cff.org/living_with_cf/B_cepacia_faq.cfm) for more information about the risks of *B. cepacia* infection for people with CF.

See <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/00055575.htm> for more information about *B. cepacia*.