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*Notice to Readers*

## Nosocomial *Burkholderia cepacia* Infections Associated with Exposure to Sublingual Probes — Texas, 2004

*Burkholderia cepacia* (formerly known as *Pseudomonas cepacia*, a gram-negative rod [GNR]) is associated with nosocomial infections among intensive care unit patients and use of contaminated equipment and solutions (*1–4*). In August 2004, the Texas Department of Health received reports of positive cultures for *B. cepacia* from respiratory samples of 13 intensive care unit patients receiving mechanical ventilation at a hospital in Texas during April–August 2004. None of the patients had cystic fibrosis, a condition commonly associated with *B. cepacia*. Initial investigation by the hospital's infection-control team revealed that nearly all of the patients had been exposed to a sublingual probe indicated for use for monitoring tissue carbon dioxide levels. The probe, an SLS-1 Sublingual Sensor, is part of the Nellcor® CapnoProbe™ Sublingual System (model N-80 monitor), a Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-regulated medical device (Nellcor, Pleasanton, California). Each probe is packaged in a metal canister filled with a buffered saline solution and sealed in a foil envelope labeled as nonsterile. Each disposable sensor is used only once.

Cultures of the buffered saline solution from at least two lots of unopened probes yielded *B. cepacia* and other GNRs. *B. cepacia* isolates from some patients and unopened sensor canisters were indistinguishable by pulsed field gel electrophoresis analysis at the Texas Department of Health laboratory. Investigations into other reports of *B. cepacia* and other GNRs that might be associated with use of such probes is ongoing at hospitals in Texas and California. The manufacturer has issued a voluntary recall of all SLS-1 Sublingual Sensors.

Clinicians should be aware that patients exposed to these probes might have been exposed to various GNRs, including *B. cepacia*. Recovery of *B. cepacia* or GNRs that might be related to use of a sublingual carbon dioxide probe should be reported to state health departments and CDC's Division of Healthcare Quality and Promotion, telephone 800-893-0485. Health-care facilities are encouraged to report through the FDA's voluntary MedWatch reporting program any events not reported under the mandatory process. Additional information is available at http://www.fda.gov/cdrh/mdr/index.html or telephone 800-FDA-1088. Users of this probe should return existing inventory of unused SLS-1 Sublingual Senors by contacting Nellcor's Technical Services department, telephone 800-635-5267, option 3.

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