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Distributed via the WV Health Alert Network – May 13, 2008

WEST VIRGINIA BUREAU FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

HEALTH ADVISORY (15)

HEPARIN RECALL INFORMATION FROM U.S. FDA

TO: **West Virginia Hospital Chief Executive Officers, Administrators, Clinical Directors, Pharmacists, and Risk Managers; Primary Care Providers; Dialysis Centers; Outpatient Surgical Centers; Home Health Agencies; Local Health Departments**

FROM: **Catherine C. Slemp, MD, MPH, Acting State Health Officer**
West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, Bureau for Public Health

DATE: **May 13, 2008**

LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS: DISTRIBUTE TO COMMUNITY HEALTH PROVIDERS LISTED
OTHER RECIPIENTS: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO STAFF AND MEMBERSHIP

The following is forwarded from the FDA. If you require more information, or if you identify suspect exposures in West Virginia, please contact the West Virginia Poison Center at 1-800-222-1222. For product returns, call your distributor.

From: FDA NEWS FOR HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS
[mailto:NewsHealthCareProfs@fda.hhs.gov]
To: FDA NEWS FOR HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS
Subject: Heparin Update

Dear Colleague,

Please help the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) spread the word about recalls of injectable heparin products and heparin flush solutions that may be contaminated with oversulfated chondroitin sulfate (OSCS). Affected heparin products have been found in medical care facilities in one state since the recall announcement. Although product recall instructions were widely distributed, they may not have been fully acted upon at all sites where heparin is used. There have been many reports of deaths associated with allergic or hypotensive symptoms after heparin administration (see FDA link at http://www.fda.gov/cder/drug/infopage/heparin/adverse_events.htm).

We ask that health professionals and facilities please review and examine all drug/device storage areas, including emergency kits, dialysis units and automated drug storage cabinets to ensure that all of the recalled heparin products have been removed and are no longer available for patient use. In addition, FDA would like to inform health professionals about other types of medical devices that contain, or are coated with, heparin. To read this update, and to learn how to report these problems to FDA, please go to: http://www.fda.gov/cdrh/safety/heparin-healthcare-update.html . Please report to FDA adverse reactions associated with these devices, as well as any reactions associated with heparin or heparin flush solutions. If you have questions or would like more information about this request, please contact the Division of Drug Information at 301-796-3400.

We apologize in advance if you receive multiple copies of this information. Thank you for your ongoing support of FDA activities.

Sincerely,

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This message was directly distributed by the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health to West Virginia Hospitals and Local Health Departments. Receiving entities are requested to further disseminate the information to those who would benefit from its receipt, especially the target audiences noted.

Categories of Health Alert messages:
Health Alert: Conveys the highest level of importance, warrants immediate action or attention.
Health Advisory: Provides important information for a specific incident or situation. May not require immediate action.
Health Update: Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation. Unlikely to require immediate action.