



Bulletin No. 4

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Hospital outbreak of septicemia associated with
the administration of intravenous fluid

From March 12, 1976 through March 17, 1976 an unusual outbreak of septicemia occurred in 7 pediatric patients in a Chicago hospital. The onset was associated with the administration of intravenous fluid to each of these 7 patients; all received infusions of dextrose 5% in 0.2 normal saline with potassium chloride prior to the onset of sepsis. A gram negative rod was isolated from the blood of all 7 patients and 2 of the isolates have now been identified by the hospital as enterobacter aerogens, sensitive to all antibiotics tested except ampicillin and cephalothin. A gram negative rod also was recovered from IV solutions being administered to 3 of the 7 cases whose in-use fluid was cultured. No cases have occurred since the hospital discontinued use of these fluids on March 17.

The dextrose 5% in 0.2 normal saline was administered from 250cc plastic bags manufactured by Travenol (Lot #CP218FO). The potassium chloride (Abbott Laboratories Lot #58651DK or 60208DK) which was supplied as 40 MEQ in 20 ml of a partially filled (50ml capacity) vial, had been added in 2.5 ml Aliquots by the hospital pharmacy to each plastic bag.

A limited number of cultures by the hospital's laboratory of stock supplies of the above products have been sterile. A large number of additional samples are now being tested and the results should be available in a few days.

CDC and FDA are jointly investigating the matter to determine the source of the gram negative rods. Intrinsic contamination of products with the above lot numbers, as well as possible contamination during the addition of potassium chloride, are being evaluated.

RABIES QUARANTINE OF THE BRISTOL BAY REGION

On March 15, 1976, Commissioner of Health and Social Services, Francis S.L. Williamson, announced a rabies quarantine for the geographical area of the Bristol Bay Regional Native Corporation.

From December, 1975 through March 9, 1976, 4 dogs and 19 red foxes were found rabid. All owners of dogs within the quarantine area must confine closely, tie down, or muzzle all such dogs to prevent biting.

After the effective time and date of this order, any dog found running at large in the quarantined area or known to have been removed from or to have escaped from the area, not being muzzled as required, may be killed by any person without liability for the killing.

During the effective period of this quarantine order, no domestic animal may be transported out of the quarantine area without prior approval of the Department of Health and Social Services or the Department of Natural Resources.