

GP ALERT

Infection control breaches at Detoxologie, Bondi Junction



Health
South Eastern Sydney
Local Health District

1. Infection control breaches were identified at Detoxologie, a business that described itself as a wellness centre in Bondi Junction
2. Customers of Detoxologie who had skin penetration procedures between June 2013 and December 2020 are advised to seek testing for blood borne viruses
3. The risk of blood borne virus exposure for any individual at the centre is thought to be low

Key Points for GPs

- Investigation of Detoxologie, a business that described itself as a wellness centre in Bondi Junction, identified potential use of non-sterile equipment for colonic irrigation, facial micro-needling, and blood testing for food allergies, in addition to intravenous infusion without any medical or nursing supervision of unregistered overseas-manufactured pharmaceuticals.
- The clinic which is located at Shop 59, Eastgate Shopping Centre, and previously at Oxford Street, Bondi Junction, is subject to a prohibition order under the Public Health Act and the proprietor is the subject of an interim prohibition order and a public warning by the Health Care Complaints Commission.
- Any customers who had a skin penetration procedure from June 2013 to December 2020 are advised to seek testing for blood borne viruses. The risk of transmission to any individual is considered low but testing is advised as a precaution.
- NSW Health is contacting customers by SMS, email and/or phone where available to advise them of the potential exposure and to contact their GP to seek blood borne virus testing and discuss any concerns. A healthdirect contact centre has been established to support those customers with questions – 1300 137 127.
- For more information, visit <https://health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/alerts/Pages/detoxologie-clinic-faqs.aspx>
- If you have clinical questions, please contact your local public health unit on 1300 066 055.

Who should be tested for blood borne viruses?

- Customers who believe they may have had one or more skin penetrating procedures at Detoxologie should be tested for blood borne viruses.
- Procedures of concern include skin needling, colonic lavage, allergy testing, and IV infusion.
- Testing is warranted as a precaution, unless you and the patient are certain that they have had no skin penetration procedures at Detoxologie.

How should I advise my patients and provide follow-up?

- For customers who believe they have had skin penetration procedures at Detoxologie please request:
 - hepatitis B surface antigen,
 - hepatitis C antibody and
 - HIV antigen/antibody.
- If a customer has not been contacted by NSW Health but believes they have undergone skin penetration procedures at the centre during the time period please arrange serological testing (as above).
- Provide reassurance to the customers that their risk of blood borne virus acquisition through the clinic is low and effective treatment is available should they test positive.
- If any of the clinic customers test positive for one of these infections, please contact your local public health unit on 1300 066 055.

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1 February 2021