

Tuesday 17 March 2015

PRESS RELEASE

Daybrook Dental Practice - Community Clinic blood test results confirmed

On 12 November 2014, NHS England (in conjunction with Public Health England), confirmed that patients seen by Mr Desmond D'Mello of the former Daybrook Dental Practice in Gedling, Nottinghamshire, may have been placed at a possible low risk of infection from blood borne viruses (hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV). This announcement followed an investigation into apparent breaches of infection control procedures by Mr D'Mello.

In order to support patients, a temporary community clinic was established for 6 weeks to manage the initial surge in patient demand for screening services. During its six week period of operation, this temporary clinic successfully saw and treated 4,526 patients.

The blood test results were as follows:

- Number of patients tested: 4,526
- Number of patients newly diagnosed with Hepatitis C: 5
- Number of patients newly diagnosed with Hepatitis B: 0
- Number of patients newly diagnosed with HIV: 0

Due to these three viruses already being present in the community, it was always recognised that some positive test results would be returned. However due to the multiple ways in which these infections can be transmitted, it is not always possible to specifically identify when and how an infection is transmitted. Any patient returning a new positive test result after attending the temporary community clinic was informed of this via their GP, and referred on for further clinical advice and treatment.

Dr Doug Black, Medical Director for NHS England in Nottinghamshire said: "Of the 4,526 patients seen and tested at the temporary clinic in Arnold Health Centre, five patients were newly diagnosed with hepatitis C and there were no newly diagnosed cases of hepatitis B or HIV.

"We have always been clear that the risk to patients was low, but we still had a duty to inform patients of this and offer the option for them to be tested.

"Treatments are available for all of the blood borne viruses tested for, so we are pleased that these individuals have been identified and offered clinical support to aid their wellbeing.

“Now that this patient screening exercise is complete, we will be focussing our efforts on what we can learn from this incident and ensuring all our findings are shared with the General Dental Council to inform their ongoing investigation into Mr D’Mello.”

Dr Vanessa MacGregor, Consultant in Communicable Disease Control at PHE East Midlands, said: “With such a high number of people being tested for hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV, the small number of positives that have been picked up as a result of screening is in line with what we would expect to see due to the very low prevalence of these blood borne viruses within the community. Effective treatments are available for all blood-borne viruses, which is why it is important to identify anyone who may have been at risk of infection, so treatment can be started if necessary.”

Any former patients of Mr Desmond D’Mello who have not yet accessed testing and wish to do so, should contact their own GP to discuss their screening requirements.

- ends -

Notes to Editors

- Since August 2014 the former Daybrook Dental Practice has been under new ownership by Southern Dental, which is not in any way connected to this incident but has offered ongoing support and cooperation to NHS England’s investigation and Mr D’Mello is no longer associated with this practice.
- **NHS England** is the body which leads the NHS in England. Its main aim is to improve the health outcomes for people in England, and it sets the overall direction and priorities for the NHS as a whole.

To learn more about the work of NHS England please visit www.england.nhs.uk.

- **Public Health England** exists to protect and improve the nation's health and wellbeing, and reduce health inequalities. It does this through world-class science, knowledge and intelligence, advocacy, partnerships and the delivery of specialist public health services. PHE is an operationally autonomous executive agency of the Department of Health.

Follow PHE on Twitter @PHE_uk or visit www.gov.uk/phe.

- **General Dental Council (GDC)** is the national body which regulates dentists and dental professionals in the UK. Visit www.gdc-org.uk to read more about the work of the GDC.
- For further press inquiries contact the Media Hub on: 07824 463 578.