

Patient Notification **Frequently Asked Questions**

Patient safety is our top priority at Porter Adventist Hospital. We are proactively working with the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment about a gap in the pre-cleaning process, prior to sterilization. While we take any gap in our pre-cleaning process seriously, at this time we are not aware of it having caused any infections. We are reaching out to patients who underwent orthopedic and spine surgery during the time in question. We remain committed to transparency; additional details will be forthcoming.

What was the gap discovered in the process?

The issue identified in our sterilization process revolved around the 1st step in a multi-step process. The 1st step is a pre-cleaning process that happens before instruments go through an intense heat sterilization, which is used to inactivate viruses.

What is my risk of HIV and Hepatitis?

Our medical experts estimate the chance of getting an infection from bloodborne pathogens during surgery is extremely low. The suggested testing is simply a precaution.

If the risk is so low, why did you notify me?

Although extremely low, there is a risk of surgical site infection or bloodborne pathogen transmission. We believe in transparency and accountability to ensure the safety and confidence in our patients' experiences at Porter.

What if I do test positive for HIV or Hepatitis?

In the rare event that a patient tests positive for a bloodborne pathogen, there are many treatment options available. Your health care provider will discuss these with you in the unlikely event you receive a positive test result.

How do I know if I have a surgical site infection?

A surgical site infection typically presents itself within 30 days of surgery. In a very limited number of cases, symptoms may occur up to a year later if the surgery involved placement of a prosthetic implant. Signs of infection may include draining pus, pain, tenderness or redness at the site of the surgical wound, and should be reported to your physician.

Where should I go for testing?

We have made arrangements for you to be seen by LabCorp, an independent network of clinical laboratories, to provide free blood testing. You may go to any LabCorp facility of your choice for this testing.

What do I need to prepare for my testing?

At the time of testing, you will need to share the information you received in your letter with them. No fasting is required.

What location do I need to go for testing?

You can go to any LabCorp location convenient to you, including out of state. A list of all LabCorp locations can be found at www.LapCorp.com.

What does the testing entail?

LabCorp will need to draw several vials of blood for testing. You will be notified of your results within 14-30 days of being tested. Should you need additional screenings, you will be contacted by LabCorp.

How do I know this won't occur if I come to your hospital again?

We have acted to remedy the gap discovered, and recent survey results released by the Joint Commission and the CDPHE, which accredits hospitals in the United States, revealed no errors in our processes or protocols.