To: Vermont Health Care Providers and Facilities
Date: March 5, 2025
From: Allison Lafferty, MD, Healthcare Associated Infections Program Director

Serious Adverse Events After Administration of Ceftriaxone: Call for Cases

Background

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is investigating reports of serious adverse events, including death, following the administration of injectable ceftriaxone (Rocephin) from September 1, 2024 to present.

To date, the CDC has identified 5-10 cases initially concentrated in the southeastern United States, but the geographical area is expanding. These cases either resulted in death or required cardiopulmonary resuscitation within six hours of administration of ceftriaxone by IV or IM injection. According to the CDC, to date, the events have not been associated with a single product manufacturer or lot, and a causal link to ceftriaxone has not been definitively established.

Requested Actions

1. Please report adverse events following the administration of ceftriaxone since September 1, 2024, that meet the criteria below to the Health Department's Infectious Disease Epidemiology program (802-863-7240, option 2; available 24/7):
    - Occurred within six hours after receipt of injectable (either intramuscular or intravenous routes) ceftriaxone in a non-ICU setting, **and**
    - Resulted in death or required cardiopulmonary resuscitation (defined as use of chest compressions and mechanical ventilation or provision of rescue breaths during cardiac arrest), **and**
    - Not attributed by the treating provider(s) to a cause other than the ceftriaxone administration (such as known infection, underlying medical condition and/or exposure to medication or medical product other than ceftriaxone).
2. Continue to use clinical judgement when prescribing ceftriaxone for bacterial infections. **Currently there is not a recommendation to hold ceftriaxone.**
3. Review post-injection monitoring protocols and ensure there is a system for prompt reporting of adverse events.

4. If a serious adverse event does occur, please retain the open vial of ceftriaxone, and await further instructions from the Health Department.
5. Ensure safe injection practices and other infection control and prevention measures are adhered to when administering medications.
6. Continue to report serious adverse events associated with medical products to FDA MedWatch.

Additional Resources

- Ceftriaxone Update Health Alert, Alabama Department of Health (February 6, 2025)

If you have any questions, please contact Allison Lafferty at allison.lafferty@vermont.gov.

To have your information updated please email the
Vermont HAN Coordinator at: vthan@vermont.gov.

HAN Message Type Definitions

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.

Info Service Message: Provides general correspondence from the Vermont Department of Health, which is not necessarily considered to be of an emergent nature.