

Jessica Burns

From: SDLO
Sent: Saturday, 28 October 2023 9:57 AM
To: Alex Mayfield; Amanda Medew; Amy Louise Melville; Ben Armstrong; Claire Daly; CLLO; DG correspondence; DL-ELT_Personal; Estimates; Finn Semple; Hamish Swanson; Helen Couper; Jacqueline Quigg; Jacqui Heywood; Jess Burns; Julie Shilton-Bevan; Katie Watts; Luke Richmond; Madeline Cunnington; Mark Gibb; Melissa Carter; Melleesa Cowie; Michael Walsh; Michaela Edwards; Miranda Claughton; Natarjsha Kramer; news; Nick Steele; Olivia Amsden; Phoenix Campbell; Rachel Western; Renaie Tesch; Sabina Mandic; Sally Gannon; Stephanie Thompson; Stephen Stewart; Tracey Walker; Trish Nielsen
Cc: SDLO
Subject: CONFIDENTIAL HIB - Fungal infections in transplant patients TPCH
Attachments: HIB - Fungal infections in transplant patients TPCH.pdf; HIB - Fungal infections in transplant patients TPCH.docx; Holding statement - Transplant service 281023.pdf; Script for phone calls to transplant patients 281023.pdf

Good morning

Please find attached a Hot issues brief (HIB) prepared in response to The Prince Charles Hospital discovering a cluster of fungal infections in patients who have recently received heart transplants.

Metro North Hospital and Health Service have prepared the following materials that have been distributed with this HIB:

- Media holding statement
- Script to be used when calling transplant patients.

The HIB was prepared by Metro North Hospital and Health Service.

Kind regards
 Amy



Amy Melville

Ministerial Departmental Liaison Officer

Ministerial and Executive Services, Office of the
 Director-General | Queensland Health

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DOH DISCLOSURE LOG COPY

Hot Issues Brief

Fungal infections in transplant patients TPCB

27 October 2023

Issue

- The Prince Charles Hospital (TPCH) has discovered a cluster of fungal infections in patients who have recently received heart transplants. This infectious cluster has not impacted the lung transplant program.
- While clinicians have been working through the linkage and causal factors since identification, on 27 October 2023 high fungal counts were found in air testing results from the storage area for the transplantation retrieval equipment.
- Due to these results and the associated necessary disposal of potentially contaminated stock, the heart transplant, and lung retrieval services have necessarily been paused.
- A remediation plan of the environment is underway and will continue over the weekend including the sourcing of new stock.

Background

- Heart transplant patients are at known risk of invasive fungal infections, which are often due to *Aspergillus* and these infections may cause complications and even death.
- The lung transplant program has a different surveillance and prophylactic protocol in place, and no cluster has been identified in this program over the same period.
- TPCB has performed 12 cardiac transplants in 2023.
- Five of these twelve patients have been diagnosed with fungal infections.
- Four of the five patients (Patients A, B, C, D) were transplanted between 1 May and 15 September 2023.
- The fifth patient (Patient E) received a heart transplant last year and had [REDACTED] surgery in [REDACTED] 2023.
- Patient A was transplanted in [REDACTED] and died in [REDACTED] 2023 following complications from a disseminated infection.
- In September 2023, clinicians introduced a fungal prophylaxis protocol for heart transplant patients as they also worked to understand if there were any causal linkages.
- Testing has found higher than expected fungal presence in the area where organ transplant retrieval equipment and supplies are stored. This area is being deep cleaned and equipment has been disposed of as appropriate with guidance from Infection Control.
- This has necessitated the need for urgent replacement of stock over the weekend as some of this equipment is only used by the lung and heart transplant programs and cannot be replaced easily.
- Initial causal observation is that a storage area for transplant and retrieval equipment is a high moisture environment and this may have contributed to the growth of fungal organisms.

- An external contractor inspected the walls, ceiling and air conditioning in theatres, ICU pod and ward rooms used for these transplants, and the equipment storage area. Environmental testing has been undertaken and results for the theatres and ICU pod are expected by 30 October 2023

Actions to date

- The actions to date have been codesigned and agreed between health service leaders, clinical leaders of both the cardiac and lung transplant programs, and infectious disease experts.
- The heart transplant program has been paused over the weekend as remediation works, further environmental investigations and replacement of critical stores is undertaken. Noting there are no unstable patients on the National Notification list.
- The lung transplant program will pause retrievals but continue to transplant organs retrieved by other states.
- The lung transplant program will recommence retrievals as soon as equipment is on site
- The deep clean of the storage area was conducted on Friday, 27 October 2023.
- On 27 October 2023, Donate Life was advised of the situation.
- An inventory of equipment and supplies will be undertaken on Saturday 28 October 2023. A new storage area has been identified and will be established over the weekend in order to receive new stock.
- The cardiac transplant areas will be tested and cleaned, and preparation will be made for a theatre to be repurposed for cardiac transplant lists.
- Patients who have received heart transplants this year will continue to receive an updated fungal prophylaxis based on latest results and advice from infectious disease clinicians.
- Masks and prophylaxis will be in place for heart transplant outpatients while further investigations are underway.
- The incident management team will reconvene on 28 October 2023 and on 29 October 2023 to reassess the situation.
- Further air testing results are expected by close of business 30 October 2023.
- All patients currently on the heart transplant waiting list (11) and the lung transplant waiting list (21) will be informed of the reduced transplant service on 28 October 2023 with an agreed script.

Media response

- A media holding statement has been prepared and a copy submitted with this HIB .

Clinical Incident Summary

- Three patients who received transplants in May-June 2023 have developed aspergillus fungal infection, two with widespread infection. One of the patients has lung only aspergillus infection so far and is at home (Patients A, B and C).
- One patient (transplanted [REDACTED] 2023) with complex comorbidities has died (Patient A).
- A fourth patient who was transplanted on [REDACTED] has grown Lementospora Prolificans in a wound drain site. The patient was on fungal prophylaxis which does not cover Lementospora Prolificans. (Patient D).

- The fungal prophylaxis protocol has been updated as a result.
- Patient D is scheduled for surgical washout of the wound on [REDACTED] 2023.
- A fifth patient, Patient E, who was transplanted in [REDACTED] 2022, initially had Aspergillus Fumigatus in his lung. He had [REDACTED] surgery in [REDACTED] 2023 and on [REDACTED] 2023 was found to have Aspergillus Terreus in a wound and had a surgical washout of the wound the same day.

Contact person

Vivienne Hassed, Executive Director Office of CE, [REDACTED]

RTI Release

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Media statement**Please attribute to Jane Hancock, Chief Operating Officer**

The Prince Charles Hospital has temporarily paused its heart transplant program over the weekend due to potential contamination of part of its transplant retrieval equipment.

This decision has been taken out of an abundance of caution due to the increased vulnerability of transplant recipients.

The lung transplant program will continue to accept donor lungs retrieved in other states.

Replacement equipment is expected to arrive early next week.

There are currently 32 people awaiting a heart or lung transplant in Queensland. All have been contacted directly by the transplant service who will continue to provide support as needed.

The Prince Charles Hospital has one of the most successful heart and lung transplant programs in the world and is a world leader in transplant research.

RTI Release

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Script for phone calls to transplant patients

- I am ringing to let you know that we have detected some possible contamination of some equipment used to retrieve donor heart and lungs for transplant.
- This possible contamination was detected on the outside of sterile packaging.
- Nonetheless out of an abundance of caution, we have made the decision to dispose of the equipment to minimise the potential risk to our patients.
- We have urgently ordered replacement equipment which is expected to arrive early next week.

Heart – Over the weekend, we will be temporarily pausing the heart transplant service. We will reassess the situation early next week once we have a better understanding of the situation.

Lung – Over the weekend, we will temporarily pausing our local lung transplant retrieval service but will continue to accept lungs from interstate.

- If you have queries or concerns please phone our coordinators.

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Attachments: UPDATED HIB - Fungal infections in transplant patients TPCH.docx; UPDATED HIB - Fungal infections in transplant patients TPCH.pdf

Good afternoon

Further to my email earlier today -

Please find attached an updated HIB prepared by Metro North Hospital and Health Service. Updates are highlighted yellow.

I am further advised that all patients and consumer representatives were understanding and thankful for the advice received.

Kind regards
 Amy



Amy Melville

Ministerial Departmental Liaison Officer

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 Tracey Walker [redacted]@health.qld.gov.au>; Trish Nielsen [redacted]@health.qld.gov.au>
Cc: SDLO [redacted]@health.qld.gov.au>

Subject: CONFIDENTIAL HIB - Fungal infections in transplant patients TPC

Good morning

Please find attached a Hot issues brief (HIB) prepared in response to The Prince Charles Hospital discovering a cluster of fungal infections in patients who have recently received heart transplants.

Metro North Hospital and Health Service have prepared the following materials that have been distributed with this HIB:

- Media holding statement
- Script to be used when calling transplant patients.

The HIB was prepared by Metro North Hospital and Health Service.

Kind regards
Amy



Amy Melville
Ministerial Departmental Liaison Officer
 Ministerial and Executive Services, Office of the
 Director-General | Queensland Health

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Hot Issues Brief

Fungal infections in transplant patients TPCH 28 October 2023

Issue

- The Prince Charles Hospital (TPCH) has discovered a cluster of fungal infections in patients who have recently received heart transplants. This infectious cluster has not impacted the lung transplant program.
- While clinicians have been working through the linkage and causal factors since identification, on 27 October 2023 high fungal counts were found in air testing results from the storage area for the transplantation retrieval equipment.
- Due to these results and the associated necessary disposal of potentially contaminated stock, the heart transplant, and lung retrieval services have necessarily been paused.
- A remediation plan of the environment is underway and will continue over the weekend including the sourcing of new stock.

Background

- Heart transplant patients are at known risk of invasive fungal infections, which are often due to *Aspergillus* and these infections may cause complications and even death.
- The lung transplant program has a different surveillance and prophylactic protocol in place, and no cluster has been identified in this program over the same period.
- TPCH has performed 12 cardiac transplants in 2023.
- Five of these twelve patients have been diagnosed with fungal infections.
- Four of the five patients (Patients A, B, C, D) were transplanted between 1 May and 15 September 2023.
- The fifth patient (Patient E) received a heart transplant last year and had [REDACTED] surgery in [REDACTED] 2023.
- Patient A was transplanted in [REDACTED] and died in [REDACTED] 2023 following complications from a disseminated infection.
- In September 2023, clinicians introduced a fungal prophylaxis protocol for heart transplant patients as they also worked to understand if there were any causal linkages.
- Testing has found higher than expected fungal presence in the area where organ transplant retrieval equipment and supplies are stored. This area is being deep cleaned and equipment has been disposed of as appropriate with guidance from Infection Control.
- This has necessitated the need for urgent replacement of stock over the weekend as some of this equipment is only used by the lung and heart transplant programs and cannot be replaced easily.
- Initial causal observation is that a storage area for transplant and retrieval equipment is a high moisture environment and this may have contributed to the growth of fungal organisms.

- An external contractor inspected the walls, ceiling and air conditioning in theatres, ICU pod and ward rooms used for these transplants, and the equipment storage area. Environmental testing has been undertaken and results for the theatres and ICU pod are expected by 30 October 2023

Actions to date

- The actions to date have been codesigned and agreed between health service leaders, clinical leaders of both the cardiac and lung transplant programs, and infectious disease experts.
- The heart transplant program has been paused over the weekend as remediation works, further environmental investigations and replacement of critical stores is undertaken. Noting there are no unstable patients on the National Notification list.
- The lung transplant program will pause retrievals but continue to transplant organs retrieved by other states.
- The lung transplant program will recommence retrievals as soon as equipment is on site. **Equipment is being sent from Sydney on 29 October 2023.**
- The deep clean of the storage area was conducted on Friday, 27 October 2023.
- On 27 October 2023, Donate Life was advised of the situation.
- **An inventory of equipment and supplies was undertaken on Saturday 28 October 2023. A new storage area has been identified and will be established over the weekend in order to receive new stock.**
- The cardiac transplant areas will be tested and cleaned, and preparation will be made for a theatre to be repurposed for cardiac transplant lists. **Environmental scanning will be conducted in all areas on the cardiac transplant patient journey.**
- Patients who have received heart transplants this year will continue to receive an updated fungal prophylaxis based on latest results and advice from infectious disease clinicians.
- Masks and prophylaxis will be in place for heart transplant outpatients while further investigations are underway.
- **The incident management team met again at 3pm on 28 October 2023 and will reconvene on 29 October 2023 to reassess the situation.**
- Further air testing results are expected by close of business 30 October 2023.
- **All patients currently on the heart transplant waiting list (9 active, 11 in total) and the lung transplant waiting list (21) and consumer representatives have been informed of the reduced transplant service on 28 October 2023 with an agreed script.**

Media response

- ☒ A media holding statement has been prepared and a copy submitted with this HIB.

Clinical Incident Summary

- Three patients who received transplants in May-June 2023 have developed aspergillus fungal infection, two with widespread infection. One of the patients has lung only aspergillus infection so far and is at home (Patients A, B and C).
- One patient (transplanted [REDACTED] 2023) with complex comorbidities has died (Patient A).

- A fourth patient who was transplanted on [REDACTED] has grown Lomentospora Prolificans in a wound drain site. The patient was on fungal prophylaxis which does not cover Lomentospora Prolificans. (Patient D).
- The fungal prophylaxis protocol has been updated as a result.
- Patient D is scheduled for surgical washout of the wound on [REDACTED] 2023.
- A fifth patient, Patient E, who was transplanted in [REDACTED] 2022, initially had Aspergillus Fumigatus in his lung. He had [REDACTED] surgery in [REDACTED] 2023 and on [REDACTED] 2023 was found to have Aspergillus Terreus in a wound and had a surgical washout of the wound the same day.

Contact person

Vivienne Hassed, Executive Director Office of CE, [REDACTED]

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Sent: Sunday, 29 October 2023 5:04 PM
To: Alex Mayfield; Amanda Medew; Amy Louise Melville; Ben Armstrong; Claire Daly; CLLO; DG correspondence; DL-ELT_Personal; Estimates; Finn Semple; Hamish Swanson; Helen Couper; Jacqueline Quigg; Jacqui Heywood; Jess Burns; Julie Shilton-Bevan; Katie Watts; Luke Richmond; Madeline Cunnington; Mark Gibb; Melissa Carter; Melleesa Cowie; Michael Walsh; Michaela Edwards; Miranda Claughton; Natarjsha Kramer; news; Nick Steele; Olivia Amsden; Phoenix Campbell; Rachel Western; Renaie Tesch; Sabina Mandic; Sally Gannon; Stephanie Thompson; Stephen Stewart; Tracey Walker; Trish Nielsen
Subject: UPDATED CONFIDENTIAL HIB - Fungal infections in transplant patients TPCH
Attachments: UPDATED HIB - Fungal infections in transplant patients TPCH.pdf; UPDATED HIB - Fungal infections in transplant patients TPCH.docx

Good afternoon
 Further to yesterday's advice –

Please find attached an updated Hot issues brief (HIB) prepared by Metro North Hospital and Health Services. Updates are highlighted yellow.

Kind regards
 Amy

**Amy Melville****Ministerial Departmental Liaison Officer**

Ministerial and Executive Services, Office of the
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Hot Issues Brief

Fungal infections in transplant patients TPCB 29 October 2023

Issue

- The Prince Charles Hospital (TPCH) has discovered a cluster of fungal infections in patients who have recently received heart transplants. This infectious cluster has not impacted the lung transplant program.
- While clinicians have been working through the linkage and causal factors since identification, on 27 October 2023 high fungal counts were found in air testing results from the storage area for the transplantation retrieval equipment.
- Due to these results and the associated necessary disposal of potentially contaminated stock, the heart transplant, and lung retrieval services have necessarily been paused.
- A remediation plan of the environment is underway and will continue over the weekend including the sourcing of new stock.

Background

- Heart transplant patients are at known risk of invasive fungal infections, which are often due to *Aspergillus* and these infections may cause complications and even death.
- The lung transplant program has a different surveillance and prophylactic protocol in place, and no cluster has been identified in this program over the same period.
- TPCB has performed 12 cardiac transplants in 2023.
- Five of these twelve patients have been diagnosed with fungal infections.
- Four of the five patients (Patients A, B, C, D) were transplanted between 1 May and 15 September 2023.
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- Patient A was transplanted in [REDACTED] and died in [REDACTED] r 2023 following complications from a disseminated infection.
- In September 2023, clinicians introduced a fungal prophylaxis protocol for heart transplant patients as they also worked to understand if there were any causal linkages.
- Testing has found higher than expected fungal presence in the area where organ transplant retrieval equipment and supplies are stored. This area is being deep cleaned and equipment has been disposed of as appropriate with guidance from Infection Control.
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- Initial causal observation is that a storage area for transplant and retrieval equipment is a high moisture environment and this may have contributed to the growth of fungal organisms.

- An external contractor inspected the walls, ceiling and air conditioning in theatres, ICU pod and ward rooms used for these transplants, and the equipment storage area. Environmental testing has been undertaken and results for the theatres and ICU pod are expected by 30 October 2023.

Actions to date

- The actions to date have been codesigned and agreed between health service leaders, clinical leaders of both the cardiac and lung transplant programs, and infectious disease experts.
- The heart transplant program has been paused until Tuesday 31 October 2023 as remediation works, further environmental investigations and replacement of critical stores is undertaken. This will be reassessed on Tuesday. Noting there are no unstable patients on the National Notification list.
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- All patients currently on the heart transplant waiting list (9 active, 11 in total) and the lung transplant waiting list (21) and consumer representatives have been informed of the reduced transplant service on 28 October 2023 with an agreed script.

Media response

- A media holding statement has been prepared and a copy submitted with this HIB.

Clinical Incident Summary

- Three patients who received transplants in May-June 2023 have developed aspergillus fungal infection, two with widespread infection. One of the patients has lung only aspergillus infection so far and is at home (Patients A, B and C).
- One patient (transplanted [REDACTED] 2023) with complex comorbidities has died (Patient A).

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- The fungal prophylaxis protocol has been updated as a result.
- Patient D had a surgical washout of the wound on [REDACTED] 2023.
- A fifth patient, Patient E, who was transplanted in [REDACTED] 2022, initially had Aspergillus Fumigatus in his lung. He had [REDACTED] surgery in [REDACTED] 2023 and on [REDACTED] 2023 was found to have Aspergillus Terreus in a wound and had a surgical washout of the wound the same day.

Contact person

Vivienne Hased, Executive Director Office of CE, [REDACTED]

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Sharon Jaklofsky

From: John Gerrard
Sent: Thursday, 23 November 2023 9:35 AM
To: Sharon Jaklofsky
Subject: FW: UPDATED CONFIDENTIAL HIB - Fungal infections in transplant patients TPCH
Attachments: UPDATED HIB - Fungal infections in transplant patients TPCH.pdf; UPDATED HIB - Fungal infections in transplant patients TPCH.docx

Categories: Director

From: SDLO [REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Sunday, 29 October 2023 5:04 PM
To: Alex Mayfield [REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>; Amanda Medew [REDACTED]@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Amy Louise Melville [REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>; Ben Armstrong [REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>; Claire Daly [REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>; CLLO [REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>; DG correspondence [REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>; DL-ELT_Personal [REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>; Estimates [REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>; Finn Semple <[REDACTED]@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Hamish Swanson [REDACTED]@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Helen Couper [REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>; Jacqueline Quigg [REDACTED]@ambulance.qld.gov.au>; Jacqui Heywood [REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>; Jess Burns [REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>; Julie Shilton-Bevan [REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>; Katie Watts [REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>; Luke Richmond [REDACTED]@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Madeline Cunnington [REDACTED]@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Mark Gibb [REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>; Melissa Carter [REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>; Melleesa Cowie [REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>; Michael Walsh [REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>; Michaela Edwards [REDACTED]@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Miranda Claughton [REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>; Natarjsha Kramer [REDACTED]@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; news [REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>; Nick Steele [REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>; Olivia Amsden [REDACTED]@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Phoenix Campbell [REDACTED]@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Rachel Western [REDACTED]@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Renaie Tesch [REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>; Sabina Mandic [REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>; Sally Gannon [REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>; Stephanie Thompson [REDACTED]@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Stephen Stewart <[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>; Tracey Walker [REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>; Trish Nielsen [REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>
Subject: UPDATED CONFIDENTIAL HIB - Fungal infections in transplant patients TPCH

Good afternoon
 Further to yesterday's advice –

Please find attached an updated Hot issues brief (HIB) prepared by Metro North Hospital and Health Services. Updates are highlighted yellow.

Kind regards
 Amy



Amy Melville

Ministerial Departmental Liaison Officer
 Ministerial and Executive Services, Office of the
 Director-General | Queensland Health

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E [REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au
W health.qld.gov.au
A Level 37, 1 William Street, Brisbane

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WELLBEING**Dear mind, remember to make time for you
Visit mentalwellbeing.initiatives.qld.gov.au/

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Subject: UPDATED CONFIDENTIAL HIB - Fungal infections in transplant patients TPCH

Good afternoon

Further to my email earlier today -

Please find attached an updated HIB prepared by Metro North Hospital and Health Service. Updates are highlighted yellow.

I am further advised that all patients and consumer representatives were understanding and thankful for the advice received.

Kind regards

Amy

**Amy Melville****Ministerial Departmental Liaison Officer**Ministerial and Executive Services, Office of the
Director-General | Queensland Health

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MENTAL WELLBEING

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To: Alex Mayfield <[redacted]@health.qld.gov.au>; Amanda Medew [redacted]@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Amy Louise Melville [redacted]@health.qld.gov.au>; Ben Armstrong [redacted]@health.qld.gov.au>; Claire Daly [redacted]@health.qld.gov.au>; CLLO [redacted]@health.qld.gov.au>; DG correspondence [redacted]@health.qld.gov.au>; DL-ELT_Personal [redacted]@health.qld.gov.au>; Estimates [redacted]@health.qld.gov.au>; Finn Semple [redacted]@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Hamish Swanson [redacted]@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Helen Couper [redacted]@health.qld.gov.au>; Jacqueline Quigg [redacted]@ambulance.qld.gov.au>; Jacqui Heywood [redacted]@health.qld.gov.au>; Jess Burns [redacted]@health.qld.gov.au>; Julie Shilton-Bevan <[redacted]@health.qld.gov.au>; Katie Watts [redacted]@health.qld.gov.au>; Luke Richmond [redacted]@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Madeline Cunningham [redacted]@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Mark Gibb [redacted]@health.qld.gov.au>; Melissa Carter [redacted]@health.qld.gov.au>; Melleesa Cowie [redacted]@health.qld.gov.au>; Michael Walsh [redacted]@health.qld.gov.au>; Michaela Edwards [redacted]@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Miranda Claughton [redacted]@health.qld.gov.au>; Natarjsha Kramer [redacted]@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; news [redacted]@health.qld.gov.au>; Nick Steele [redacted]@health.qld.gov.au>; Olivia Amsden [redacted]@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Phoenix Campbell [redacted]@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Rachel Western [redacted]@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Renaie Tesch [redacted]@health.qld.gov.au>; Sabina Mandic [redacted]@health.qld.gov.au>; Sally Gannon [redacted]@health.qld.gov.au>; Stephanie Thompson [redacted]@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Stephen Stewart [redacted]@health.qld.gov.au>; Tracey Walker [redacted]@health.qld.gov.au>; Trish Nielsen [redacted]@health.qld.gov.au>

Cc: SDLO [redacted]@health.qld.gov.au>**Subject:** CONFIDENTIAL HIB - Fungal infections in transplant patients TPCH

Good morning

Please find attached a Hot issues brief (HIB) prepared in response to The Prince Charles Hospital discovering a cluster of fungal infections in patients who have recently received heart transplants.

Metro North Hospital and Health Service have prepared the following materials that have been distributed with this HIB:

- Media holding statement
- Script to be used when calling transplant patients.

The HIB was prepared by Metro North Hospital and Health Service.

Kind regards
 Amy

**Amy Melville****Ministerial Departmental Liaison Officer**

Ministerial and Executive Services, Office of the
 Director-General | Queensland Health

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A Level 37, 1 William Street, Brisbane



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Hot Issues Brief

Fungal infections in transplant patients TPCB 29 October 2023

Issue

- The Prince Charles Hospital (TPCH) has discovered a cluster of fungal infections in patients who have recently received heart transplants. This infectious cluster has not impacted the lung transplant program.
- While clinicians have been working through the linkage and causal factors since identification, on 27 October 2023 high fungal counts were found in air testing results from the storage area for the transplantation retrieval equipment.
- Due to these results and the associated necessary disposal of potentially contaminated stock, the heart transplant, and lung retrieval services have necessarily been paused.
- A remediation plan of the environment is underway and will continue over the weekend including the sourcing of new stock.

Background

- Heart transplant patients are at known risk of invasive fungal infections, which are often due to *Aspergillus* and these infections may cause complications and even death.
- The lung transplant program has a different surveillance and prophylactic protocol in place, and no cluster has been identified in this program over the same period.
- TPCB has performed 12 cardiac transplants in 2023.
- Five of these twelve patients have been diagnosed with fungal infections.
- Four of the five patients (Patients A, B, C, D) were transplanted between 1 May and 15 September 2023.
- The fifth patient (Patient E) received a heart transplant last year and had sternal surgery in [REDACTED] 2023.
- Patient A was transplanted in [REDACTED] and died in [REDACTED] 2023 following complications from a disseminated infection.
- In September 2023, clinicians introduced a fungal prophylaxis protocol for heart transplant patients as they also worked to understand if there were any causal linkages.
- Testing has found higher than expected fungal presence in the area where organ transplant retrieval equipment and supplies are stored. This area is being deep cleaned and equipment has been disposed of as appropriate with guidance from Infection Control.
- This has necessitated the need for urgent replacement of stock over the weekend as some of this equipment is only used by the lung and heart transplant programs and cannot be replaced easily.
- Initial causal observation is that a storage area for transplant and retrieval equipment is a high moisture environment and this may have contributed to the growth of fungal organisms.

- An external contractor inspected the walls, ceiling and air conditioning in theatres, ICU pod and ward rooms used for these transplants, and the equipment storage area. Environmental testing has been undertaken and results for the theatres and ICU pod are expected by 30 October 2023.

Actions to date

- The actions to date have been codesigned and agreed between health service leaders, clinical leaders of both the cardiac and lung transplant programs, and infectious disease experts.
- The heart transplant program has been paused until Tuesday 31 October 2023 as remediation works, further environmental investigations and replacement of critical stores is undertaken. This will be reassessed on Tuesday. Noting there are no unstable patients on the National Notification list.
- The lung transplant program will pause retrievals but continue to transplant organs retrieved by other states.
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- The deep clean of the storage area was conducted on Friday, 27 October 2023.
- On 27 October 2023, Donate Life was advised of the situation. DonateLife were updated on 29 October 2023.
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- The cardiac transplant areas will be tested and cleaned, and preparation will be made for a theatre to be repurposed for cardiac transplant lists. Environmental scanning will be conducted in all areas on the cardiac transplant patient journey.
- Patients who have received heart transplants this year will continue to receive an updated fungal prophylaxis based on latest results and advice from infectious disease clinicians.
- Masks and prophylaxis will be in place for heart transplant outpatients while further investigations are underway.
- The incident management team met again at 3pm on 29 October 2023 and will reconvene on Monday 30 October to reassess the situation.
- Further air testing results are expected by close of business 30 October 2023.
- All patients currently on the heart transplant waiting list (9 active, 11 in total) and the lung transplant waiting list (21) and consumer representatives have been informed of the reduced transplant service on 28 October 2023 with an agreed script.

Media response

- ☒ A media holding statement has been prepared and a copy submitted with this HIB.

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- A fourth patient who was transplanted on [REDACTED] has grown Lomentospora Prolificans in a wound drain site. The patient was on fungal prophylaxis which does not cover Lomentospora Prolificans. (Patient D).
- The fungal prophylaxis protocol has been updated as a result.
- Patient D had a surgical washout of the wound on [REDACTED] 2023.
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Contact person

Vivienne Hased, Executive Director Office of CE, [REDACTED]

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Jessica Burns

From: SDLO
Sent: Monday, 30 October 2023 12:39 PM
To: Alex Mayfield; Amanda Medew; Amy Louise Melville; Ben Armstrong; Claire Daly; CLLO; DG correspondence; DL-ELT_Personal; Estimates; Finn Semple; Hamish Swanson; Helen Couper; Jacqueline Quigg; Jacqui Heywood; Jess Burns; Julie Shilton-Bevan; Katie Watts; Luke Richmond; Madeline Cunnington; Mark Gibb; Melissa Carter; Melleesa Cowie; Michael Walsh; Michaela Edwards; Miranda Claughton; Natarjsha Kramer; news; Nick Steele; Olivia Amsden; Phoenix Campbell; Rachel Western; Renaie Tesch; Sabina Mandic; Sally Gannon; Stephanie Thompson; Stephen Stewart; Tracey Walker; Trish Nielsen
Subject: UPDATED CONFIDENTIAL HIB - Fungal infections in transplant patients TPCH
Attachments: UPDATED HIB - Fungal infections in transplant patients TPCH_30Oct.pdf; UPDATED HIB - Fungal infections in transplant patients TPCH_30Oct.docx

Good afternoon

Please find attached another update on the HIB from MNHHS regarding fungal infections in transplant patients.

Kind regards
 Claire

**Claire Daly**

Senior Departmental Liaison Officer

Ministerial and Executive Services, Office of the
 Director-General | Queensland Health

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**QUEENSLAND
 HEALTH VISION**

A world class health system for all Queenslanders



From: SDLO [REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Sunday, 29 October 2023 5:04 PM
Subject: UPDATED CONFIDENTIAL HIB - Fungal infections in transplant patients TPCH

Good afternoon
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Kind regards
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Amy Melville

Ministerial Departmental Liaison Officer

Ministerial and Executive Services, Office of the
Director-General | Queensland Health

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I am further advised that all patients and consumer representatives were understanding and thankful for the advice received.

Kind regards

Amy

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Amy Melville

Ministerial Departmental Liaison Officer

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From: SDLO

Sent: Saturday, 28 October 2023 9:57 AM

To: Alex Mayfield [\[REDACTED\]@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au); Amanda Medew [\[REDACTED\]@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@ministerial.qld.gov.au); Amy Louise Melville [\[REDACTED\]@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au); Ben Armstrong [\[REDACTED\]@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au); Claire Daly [\[REDACTED\]@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au); CLLO [\[REDACTED\]@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au); DG correspondence [\[REDACTED\]@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au); DL-ELT_Personal [\[REDACTED\]@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au); Estimates [\[REDACTED\]@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au); Finn Semple [\[REDACTED\]@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@ministerial.qld.gov.au); Hamish Swanson [\[REDACTED\]@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@ministerial.qld.gov.au); Helen Couper [\[REDACTED\]@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au); Jacqueline Quigg [\[REDACTED\]@ambulance.qld.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@ambulance.qld.gov.au); Jacqui Heywood [\[REDACTED\]@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au); Jess Burns [\[REDACTED\]@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au); Julie Shilton-Bevan [\[REDACTED\]@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au); Katie Watts [\[REDACTED\]@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au); Luke Richmond [\[REDACTED\]@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@ministerial.qld.gov.au); Madeline Cunningham [\[REDACTED\]@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@ministerial.qld.gov.au); Mark Gibb [\[REDACTED\]@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au); Melissa Carter [\[REDACTED\]@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au); Melleesa Cowie [\[REDACTED\]@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au); Michael Walsh [\[REDACTED\]@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au); Michaela Edwards <[M\[REDACTED\]@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@ministerial.qld.gov.au)>; Miranda Claughton [\[REDACTED\]@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au); Natarjsa Kramer [\[REDACTED\]@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@ministerial.qld.gov.au); news [\[REDACTED\]@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au); Nick Steele [\[REDACTED\]@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au); Olivia Amsden [\[REDACTED\]@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@ministerial.qld.gov.au); Phoenix Campbell [\[REDACTED\]@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@ministerial.qld.gov.au); Rachel Western [\[REDACTED\]@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@ministerial.qld.gov.au); Renaie Tesch [\[REDACTED\]@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au); Sabina Mandic [\[REDACTED\]@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au); Sally Gannon [\[REDACTED\]@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au); Stephanie Thompson [\[REDACTED\]@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@ministerial.qld.gov.au); Stephen Stewart [\[REDACTED\]@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au); Tracey Walker [\[REDACTED\]@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au); Trish Nielsen [\[REDACTED\]@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au)
Cc: SDLO [\[REDACTED\]@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au)

Subject: CONFIDENTIAL HIB - Fungal infections in transplant patients TPCH

Good morning

Please find attached a Hot issues brief (HIB) prepared in response to The Prince Charles Hospital discovering a cluster of fungal infections in patients who have recently received heart transplants.

Metro North Hospital and Health Service have prepared the following materials that have been distributed with this HIB:

- Media holding statement
- Script to be used when calling transplant patients.

The HIB was prepared by Metro North Hospital and Health Service.

Kind regards
Amy



Amy Melville

Ministerial Departmental Liaison Officer

Ministerial and Executive Services, Office of the
Director-General | Queensland Health

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RTI Release

DOH DISCLOSURE LOG COPY

Hot Issues Brief

Fungal infections in transplant patients TPCH

UPDATED 30 October 2023

Issue

- The Prince Charles Hospital (TPCH) has discovered a cluster of fungal infections in patients who have recently received heart transplants. This infectious cluster has not impacted the lung transplant program.
- While clinicians have been working through the linkage and causal factors since identification, on 27 October 2023 high fungal counts were found in air testing results from the storage area for the transplantation retrieval equipment.
- Due to these results and the associated necessary disposal of potentially contaminated stock, the heart transplant, and lung retrieval services have necessarily been paused.
- A remediation plan of the environment is underway and will continue over the weekend including the sourcing of new stock.

Background

- Heart transplant patients are at known risk of invasive fungal infections, which are often due to *Aspergillus* and these infections may cause complications and even death.
- The lung transplant program has a different surveillance and prophylactic protocol in place, and no cluster has been identified in this program over the same period.
- TPCH has performed 12 cardiac transplants in 2023.
- Five of these twelve patients have been diagnosed with fungal infections.
- Four of the five patients (Patients A, B, C, D) were transplanted between 1 May and 15 September 2023.
- The fifth patient (Patient E) received a heart transplant last year and had surgery in 2023.
- Patient A was transplanted in 2022 and died in 2023 following complications from a disseminated infection.
- In September 2023, clinicians introduced a fungal prophylaxis protocol for heart transplant patients as they also worked to understand if there were any causal linkages.
- Testing has found higher than expected fungal presence in the area where organ transplant retrieval equipment and supplies are stored. This area is being deep cleaned and equipment has been disposed of as appropriate with guidance from Infection Control.
- This has necessitated the need for urgent replacement of stock over the weekend as some of this equipment is only used by the lung and heart transplant programs and cannot be replaced easily.
- Initial causal observation is that a storage area for transplant and retrieval equipment is a high moisture environment and this may have contributed to the growth of fungal organisms.

- An external contractor inspected the walls, ceiling and air conditioning in theatres, ICU pod and ward rooms used for these transplants, and the equipment storage area. Environmental testing has been undertaken and results for the theatres and ICU pod are expected by **COB** 30 October 2023.

Actions to date

- The actions to date have been codesigned and agreed between health service leaders, clinical leaders of both the cardiac and lung transplant programs, and infectious disease experts.
- The heart transplant program has been paused until Tuesday 31 October 2023 as remediation works, further environmental investigations and replacement of critical stores is undertaken. This will be reassessed on Tuesday. Noting there are no unstable patients on the National Notification list.
- The lung transplant program will pause retrievals but continue to transplant organs retrieved by other states.
- The lung transplant program will recommence retrievals as soon as cardioplegia sets arrive from available interstate sources, noting that there is not a standardised approach to this equipment across the four Australian heart and lung transplant programs which has impacted immediate availability.
- The deep clean of the **original** storage area was conducted on Friday, 27 October 2023.
- On 27 October 2023, Donate Life was advised of the situation. DonatLife were updated on 29 October 2023.
- An inventory of equipment and supplies was undertaken on Saturday 28 October 2023. A new storage area has been identified and **was** established over the weekend in order to receive new stock.
- The cardiac transplant areas will be tested and cleaned, and preparation will be made for a theatre to be repurposed for cardiac transplant lists. Environmental scanning will be conducted in all areas on the cardiac transplant patient journey.
- Patients who have received heart transplants this year will continue to receive an updated fungal prophylaxis based on latest results and advice from infectious disease clinicians.
- Masks and prophylaxis will be in place for heart transplant outpatients while further investigations are underway.
- Further air testing results are expected by close of business 30 October 2023.
- All patients currently on the heart transplant waiting list (9 active, 11 in total) and the lung transplant waiting list (21) and consumer representatives have been informed of the reduced transplant service on 28 October 2023 with an agreed script. All patients were understanding of the situation.

Media response

- ☒ A media holding statement has been prepared and a copy submitted with this HIB.

Clinical Incident Summary

- Three patients who received transplants in May-June 2023 have developed aspergillus fungal infection, two with widespread infection. One of the patients has lung only aspergillus infection so far and is at home (Patients A, B and C).

- One patient (transplanted [REDACTED] 2023) with complex comorbidities has died (Patient A).
- A fourth patient who was transplanted on [REDACTED] has grown *Lomentospora Prolificans* in a wound drain site. The patient was on fungal prophylaxis which does not cover *Lomentospora Prolificans*. (Patient D).
- The fungal prophylaxis protocol has been updated as a result.
- Patient D had a surgical washout of the wound on [REDACTED] 2023.
- A fifth patient, Patient E, who was transplanted in [REDACTED] 2022, initially had *Aspergillus Fumigatus* in his lung. He had [REDACTED] surgery in [REDACTED] 2023 and on [REDACTED] 2023 was found to have *Aspergillus Terreus* in a wound and had a surgical washout of the wound the same day.

Contact person

Vivienne Hassed, Executive Director Office of CE, [REDACTED]

RTI Release

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Jessica Burns

From: SDLO
Sent: Tuesday, 31 October 2023 5:10 PM
To: Alex Mayfield; Amanda Medew; Amy Louise Melville; Ben Armstrong; Claire Daly; CLLO; DG correspondence; Estimates; Finn Semple; Hamish Swanson; Helen Couper; Jacqueline Quigg; Jacqui Heywood; Jess Burns; Julie Shilton-Bevan; Katie Watts; Luke Richmond; Madeline Cunnington; Mark Gibb; Michael Walsh; Miranda Cloughton; Natarjsha Kramer; news; Olivia Amsden; Phoenix Campbell; Rachel Western; Renaie Tesch; Sabina Mandic; Sally Gannon; Stephen Stewart; Tracey Walker; Trish Nielsen
Cc: Catherine McDougall
Subject: UPDATED CONFIDENTIAL HIB - Fungal infections in transplant patients TPCH
Attachments: UPDATED HIB - Fungal infections heart and lung transplant patients TPCH.docx; UPDATED HIB - Fungal infections heart and lung transplant patients TPCH.pdf

Good afternoon,
 Please find attached another update on the HIB from MNHHS regarding fungal infections in transplant patients.

Kind regards,
 Miranda



Miranda Cloughton

Director
 Ministerial & Executive Services Unit, Office of the
 Director-General & System Strategy
 Division | Queensland Health

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A [1 William Street](#)



Queensland Health acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land across Queensland, and pays respect to First Nations Elders past, present and future.

From: SDLO
Sent: Monday, 30 October 2023 12:39 PM
To: Alex Mayfield [Redacted]@health.qld.gov.au>; Amanda Medew [Redacted]@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Amy Louise Melville [Redacted]@health.qld.gov.au>; Ben Armstrong [Redacted]@health.qld.gov.au>; Claire Daly [Redacted]ly@health.qld.gov.au>; CLLO [Redacted]@health.qld.gov.au>; DG correspondence [Redacted]@health.qld.gov.au>; DL-ELT_Personal [Redacted]@health.qld.gov.au>; Estimates [Redacted]@health.qld.gov.au>; Finn Semple [Redacted]@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Hamish Swanson [Redacted]@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Helen Couper [Redacted]@health.qld.gov.au>; Jacqueline Quigg [Redacted]@ambulance.qld.gov.au>; Jacqui Heywood [Redacted]@health.qld.gov.au>; Jess Burns [Redacted]@health.qld.gov.au>; Julie Shilton-Bevan [Redacted]@health.qld.gov.au>; Katie Watts [Redacted]@health.qld.gov.au>; Luke Richmond [Redacted]@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Madeline Cunnington [Redacted]

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Subject: UPDATED CONFIDENTIAL HIB - Fungal infections in transplant patients TPCH

Good afternoon

Please find attached another update on the HIB from MNHHS regarding fungal infections in transplant patients.

Kind regards

Claire



Claire Daly

Senior Departmental Liaison Officer

Ministerial and Executive Services, Office of the Director-General | Queensland Health

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A Level 37, 1 William Street, Brisbane

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QUEENSLAND HEALTH VISION A world class health system for all Queenslanders

From: SDLO < [redacted] @health.qld.gov.au >

Sent: Sunday, 29 October 2023 5:04 PM

Subject: UPDATED CONFIDENTIAL HIB - Fungal infections in transplant patients TPCH

Good afternoon

Further to yesterday's advice –

Please find attached an updated Hot issues brief (HIB) prepared by Metro North Hospital and Health Services. Updates are highlighted yellow.

Kind regards

Amy



Amy Melville

Ministerial Departmental Liaison Officer

Ministerial and Executive Services, Office of the Director-General | Queensland Health

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From: SDLO**Sent:** Saturday, 28 October 2023 4:25 PM

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 Tracey Walker [@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:tracey.walker@health.qld.gov.au); Trish Nielsen [@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:trish.nielsen@health.qld.gov.au)

Subject: UPDATED CONFIDENTIAL HIB - Fungal infections in transplant patients TPCH

Good afternoon

Further to my email earlier today -

Please find attached an updated HIB prepared by Metro North Hospital and Health Service. Updates are highlighted yellow.

I am further advised that all patients and consumer representatives were understanding and thankful for the advice received.

Kind regards

Amy

**Amy Melville****Ministerial Departmental Liaison Officer**

Ministerial and Executive Services, Office of the
 Director-General | Queensland Health

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Cc: SDLO [@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:sdlo@health.qld.gov.au)

Subject: CONFIDENTIAL HIB - Fungal infections in transplant patients TPCH

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Amy Melville

Ministerial Departmental Liaison Officer

Ministerial and Executive Services, Office of the
Director-General | Queensland Health

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RTI Release

DOH DISCLOSURE LOG COPY

Hot Issues Brief

Fungal infections in transplant patients TPCH 31 October 2023

Issue

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- While clinicians have been working through the linkage and causal factors since identification, on 27 October 2023 high fungal counts were found in air testing results from the storage area for the transplantation retrieval equipment.
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- Patient A was transplanted in May and died in 2023 following complications from a disseminated infection.
- In September 2023, clinicians introduced a fungal prophylaxis protocol for heart transplant patients as they also worked to understand if there were any causal linkages.
- Testing has found higher than expected fungal presence in the area where organ transplant retrieval equipment and supplies are stored. This area is being deep cleaned and equipment has been disposed of as appropriate with guidance from Infection Control.
- This necessitated the need for urgent replacement of stock over the weekend of 28 October 2023 as some of this equipment is only used by the lung and heart transplant programs and cannot be replaced easily.
- Initial causal observation is that a storage area for transplant and retrieval equipment is a high moisture environment and this may have contributed to the growth of fungal organisms.

- An external contractor inspected the walls, ceiling and air conditioning in theatres, ICU pod and ward rooms used for these transplants, and the equipment storage area. Environmental testing has been undertaken and results for the theatres and ICU pod were received on 30 October 2023 and were safe for service recommencement.

Actions to date

- The actions to date have been codesigned and agreed between health service leaders, clinical leaders of both the cardiac and lung transplant programs, and infectious disease experts.
- The heart transplant program has been paused until Tuesday 31 October 2023 as remediation works, further environmental investigations and replacement of critical stores is undertaken. This will be reassessed on Tuesday. Noting there are no unstable patients on the National Notification list.
- The lung transplant program will pause retrievals but continue to transplant organs retrieved by other states.
- An inventory of equipment and supplies was undertaken on Saturday 28 October 2023. A new storage area has been identified and will be established over the weekend in order to receive new stock.
- The deep clean of the storage area was conducted on Friday, 27 October 2023.
- On 27 October 2023, Donate Life was advised of the situation. DonateLife were updated on 29 October 2023.
- The cardiac transplant areas will be tested and cleaned, and preparation will be made for a theatre to be repurposed for cardiac transplant lists. Environmental scanning will be conducted in all areas on the cardiac transplant patient journey.
- Patients who have received heart transplants this year will continue to receive an updated fungal prophylaxis based on latest results and advice from infectious disease clinicians.
- Masks and prophylaxis will be in place for heart transplant outpatients while further investigations are underway.
- Further air testing results are expected by close of business 1 November 2023.
- All patients currently on the heart transplant waiting list (9 active, 11 in total) and the lung transplant waiting list (21) and consumer representatives have been informed of the reduced transplant service on 28 October 2023 with an agreed script. All patients were understanding of the situation.
- The lung transplant program has recommenced the retrievals program on 30 October 2023. The cardiac transplant program will recommence from 1 November 2023.

Media response

- ☒ A media holding statement has been prepared and a copy submitted with this HIB.

Clinical Incident Summary

- Three patients who received transplants in May-June 2023 have developed aspergillus fungal infection, two with widespread infection. One of the patients has lung only aspergillus infection so far and is at home (Patients A, B and C).
- One patient (transplanted [REDACTED] 2023) with complex comorbidities has died (Patient A).

- A fourth patient who was transplanted on [REDACTED] has grown Lementospora Prolificans in a wound drain site. The patient was on fungal prophylaxis which does not cover Lementospora Prolificans. (Patient D).
- The fungal prophylaxis protocol has been updated as a result.
- Patient D had a surgical washout of the wound on [REDACTED] 2023.
- A fifth patient, Patient E, who was transplanted in [REDACTED] 2022, initially had Aspergillus Fumigatus in his lung. He had [REDACTED] surgery in [REDACTED] 2023 and on [REDACTED] 2023 was found to have Aspergillus Terreus in a wound and had a surgical washout of the wound the same day.

Contact person

Vivienne Hassed, Executive Director Office of CE, [REDACTED]

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