

INTERIM INSTRUCTION NOTICE #16-002

November 17, 2016

SUBJECT: Reporting Medical Conditions and Communicable Diseases

DISTRIBUTION: All Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) and Contract Agency Health Care Providers

OBSOLETE: Upon completion of related policy and/or procedure

Effective Date November 17, 2016

From DBH Medical Services

Introduction This interim instruction notice provides instructions for physicians, nurse practitioners, and registered nurses to report known or suspected reportable medical conditions and communicable diseases to San Bernardino County Department of Public Health (DPH). DPH is responsible for relaying reportable medical conditions to the California Department of Motor Vehicles and responding to reports of communicable diseases accordingly.

Background Per California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 17, Section 2500, it is the duty of every health care provider, who knows or suspects of a case of a reportable medical condition or communicable disease, to report to the local health officer for the jurisdiction where the patient resides. In this context, a "health care provider" is a behavioral health physician, nurse practitioner or registered nurse.

The DPH's Environmental Health Division – Communicable Diseases Section (CDS) performs disease surveillance, control measures, and educational activities designed to reduce or manage the incidence of infectious disease. CDS relies on partners, such as DBH, to report medical conditions and communicable diseases as mandated by law.

Delays or failure to report may contribute to serious outbreaks and/or deaths. Additionally, failure to report can result in disciplinary action, such as misdemeanor charges and/or civil penalty, for a citable offence per Business and Professions Code, Section 2234; Health and Safety Code Section 105200 and 120295; and Title 16, CCR, Section 1364 and 1364.11.

Continued on next page

INTERIM INSTRUCTION NOTICE #16-002, Continued

Medical Condition Reporting

Disorders characterized by lapses in consciousness are medical conditions that involve: 1) loss of consciousness or marked reduction of alertness or responsiveness to external stimuli; 2) the inability to perform one or more activities of daily living; 3) the impairment of the sensory motor functions used to operate a motor vehicle. Medical conditions that may progress to a level of functional impairment as described include: Alzheimer's disease, seizure disorders, brain tumors, narcolepsy, sleep apnea, and abnormal metabolic states, including hypo and hyperglycemia associated with diabetes.

Disorders characterized by lapses in consciousness are not required to be reported *if*:

1. the patient's sensory motor functions are impaired to the extent the patient is unable to ever operate a motor vehicle;
2. the patient states he/she does not drive, never intends to drive and physician believes these statements to be true;
3. the physician previously reported the diagnosis and since the report physician believes patient has not operated a motor vehicle;
4. there is documentation in the patient's medical record that another physician reported the diagnosis and since the report, the physician believes the patient has not operated a motor vehicle.

If a DBH physician, nurse practitioner or registered nurse suspects or knows a client has a disorder characterized by lapses in consciousness, a report must be made to DPH by completing the [Confidentiality Morbidity Report – Lapses of Consciousness form](#) and faxing it to (909) 387-6377.

Pesticide-related illness or injuries are required to be reported to DPH **immediately** by completing the [Confidentiality Morbidity Report – Non DMV form](#) and faxing it to 909-387-6377.

Communicable Disease Reporting

Reportable communicable diseases include, but are not limited to: Chickenpox (Varicella); Hepatitis A, B, C, D, E; Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) infection (stage 3 – AIDS) and HIV acute infection; Pertussis (Whooping Cough); Smallpox (Variola); Tuberculosis; West Nile Virus Infection; and Zika Virus Infection. For a complete list of reportable communicable diseases, visit the [DPH Reportable Diseases and Conditions](#) listing.

If a DBH physician, nurse or registered nurse suspects or knows a client has contracted a communicable disease listed on the [DPH Reportable Diseases and Conditions](#), they must complete the [Confidentiality Morbidity Report – Non DMV form](#) and fax it to 909-387-6377. Some communicable diseases are required to be reported immediately by telephone or within 24 hours by telephone, as indicated on the [DPH Reportable Diseases and Conditions](#) listing. For telephone reporting, call 800-722-4794 *and* complete the [Confidentiality Morbidity Report – Non DMV form](#) to fax afterwards.

Continued on next page

INTERIM INSTRUCTION NOTICE #16-002, Continued

Questions

Questions regarding reporting requirements should be directed to DBH Medical Services at 909-388-0827 or contact the DBH Nurse Manager: cdavis@dbh.sbcounty.gov.

References

- Business and Professions Code, Section 2234
 - Health and Safety Code, Sections 105200, 120130, 120295
 - Title 13, California Code of Regulations, Section 110.01
 - Title 16, California Code of Regulations, Sections 1364.10 and 1364.11
 - Title 17, California Code of Regulations, Sections 2500, 2802, 2810, 2806, 2812
-