

JB Pritzker, Governor

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## Non-sterile Ultrasound Gel Associated with Multistate Outbreak of *Paraburkholderia fungorum* - May 19, 2025

### Summary and Action Items

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has received reports of *Paraburkholderia fungorum* (an environmental bacterium) associated with the use of ultrasound gel from multiple states from 2024–2025.
- Use only single-use sterile ultrasound gel for percutaneous procedures (procedures that involve puncturing the skin).
- Review protocols for percutaneous procedures and ensure non-sterile ultrasound gel products are excluded, including the products currently associated with the outbreak.
- Ensure providers who perform percutaneous procedures are trained in the appropriate use of ultrasound gel products.
- Clinical labs should conduct a one year lab lookback to identify cases of *Paraburkholderia fungorum* from sterile sources (e.g. blood cultures).

### Background

The use of contaminated, **non-sterile ultrasound gel** has previously been associated with healthcare outbreaks when used for ultrasound-guided percutaneous procedures. Percutaneous procedures involve skin or tissue puncture, including but not limited to, the **placement of central and peripheral intravenous catheters, amniocentesis, paracentesis, tissue biopsy, and surgical procedures.**

The CDC is investigating a multistate cluster of *Paraburkholderia fungorum*, an environmental pathogen rarely associated with human illness. To date, 40 cases of blood infection (bacteremia) caused by *P. fungorum* have been identified, at least some of whom had undergone prior ultrasound-guided percutaneous procedures. *P. fungorum*, identified in at least two non-sterile ultrasound gel products, is genetically linked to the clinical cases.

Product testing has isolated *P. fungorum* from at least two **non-sterile ultrasound gel products**:

- **MediChoice® (lots: 240302; 240306)**
- **ClearImage® (lots: 230221, 230256, 240227, 240230)**

**Both products were manufactured by NEXT Medical Products Company (Branchburg, NJ);** these product isolates are also genetically related to the *P. fungorum* patient isolates. Further investigation by healthcare facilities confirmed that some of these patients had undergone ultrasound-guided percutaneous procedures prior to culture collection.

### Recommendations

- Healthcare facilities and clinicians should report cases of clinical infection with *Paraburkholderia fungorum* to their [local health department](#).
- Adverse events or quality issues associated with ultrasound gel products should be reported to the manufacturer and the [FDA's MedWatch Adverse Event Reporting](#) program.

## Illinois Department of Public Health

- Use only single-use sterile ultrasound gel for all percutaneous procedures (procedures that involve puncturing the skin). An ultrasound gel product label's claim of "bacteriostatic" or "preservative" without a specific indication of sterility should be considered non-sterile for clinical purposes.
- Healthcare facilities should ensure that infection preventionists, interventional radiology departments, and other departments and clinicians who perform ultrasound-guided percutaneous procedures review protocols for percutaneous procedures and ensure non-sterile ultrasound gel products are excluded, including the products currently associated with the outbreak (i.e., sterile ultrasound gel products (MediChoice® [lots: 240302; 240306] and ClearImage® [lots: 230221, 230256, 240227, 240230]), both manufactured by NEXT Medical Products Company [Branchburg, NJ]).
- Ensure providers who perform percutaneous procedures are trained in sterile technique and the appropriate use of ultrasound gel products.
- Clinical labs should conduct a one year lab lookback to identify cases of *Paraburkholderia fungorum* from sterile sources (e.g. blood cultures). Report cases to the local health department.

### Contact

IDPH Regional Infection Prevention Program at [DPH.IP@Illinois.gov](mailto:DPH.IP@Illinois.gov).

### Target Audience

Local Health Departments, Hospital Infection Preventionists, Infectious Disease Physicians, Interventional Radiologists, Emergency Medicine Physicians, Hospital Administrators, and Regional Health Offices.

### Date Issued

May 19, 2025

### Resources

1. Alert: Use Only Sterile Ultrasound Gel for Percutaneous Procedures:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/healthcare-associated-infections/bulletins/outbreak-ultrasound-gel.html>
2. Outbreak of Burkholderia stabilis Infections Associated with Contaminated Nonsterile, Multiuse Ultrasound Gel — 10 States, May–September 2021 | MMWR:  
[https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/wr/mm7148a3.htm#B1\\_down](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/wr/mm7148a3.htm#B1_down)