

Health Advisory

Call for Cases: *Burkholderia cepacia* complex infection following certain ultrasound-guided procedures
October 22, 2026

SUMMARY POINTS

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is investigating a cluster of *Burkholderia cepacia* complex (Bcc) urinary tract and bloodstream infections following transrectal ultrasound-guided prostate biopsies performed at multiple urology clinics during July – September 2026.
- The Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) and Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH), in coordination with CDC, are seeking assistance from clinicians and health care facilities in identifying cases of Bcc infection following certain ultrasound-guided procedures occurring from April 1, 2026, to present.
- If you have questions about this advisory, please contact DOH at 877-PA-HEALTH (877-724- 3258), PDPH at 215-685-4501, or your local health department.

Burkholderia cepacia complex (Bcc) comprises a group of closely related gram-negative bacteria found in environmental sources, including soil and water, that have been associated with health care outbreaks. In September 2026, a public health jurisdiction notified CDC of a cluster of Bcc urinary tract and bloodstream infections following transrectal ultrasound-guided prostate biopsies performed at multiple urology clinics during July – September 2026. Available isolates were subsequently identified as *Burkholderia contaminans*. CDC seeks to identify potentially related cases in other jurisdictions.

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Recommendations and Action Steps for Health Care Providers

As part of case-finding, the Pennsylvania DOH requests that clinicians and health care facilities report patients who meet the following criteria:

- Newly diagnosed Bcc infection confirmed by culture from **blood** or **urine** (including isolates reported as *B. contaminans* or Bcc without species-level identification); AND
- Specimen collected on or after **April 1, 2026**; AND
- **Transrectal ultrasound-guided prostate biopsy**, or another **endocavitary ultrasound-guided procedure** involving biopsy, aspiration, or needle penetration of underlying tissue, performed on or after **April 1, 2026**, and **before** collection of the positive blood or urine specimen.

Please collect available information regarding the procedure, including procedure type, procedure date, health care setting where the procedure was performed, and aqueous products used during the procedure (e.g., ultrasound gel, lubricating jelly) with manufacturer name, lot number, and expiration date whenever possible. Please retain patient isolates for possible submission to CDC for laboratory testing.

To report a case or for general questions, please contact DOH at 1-877-PA-HEALTH, PDPH at 215-685-4501, or your local health department.

As a reminder, health care providers should report infections that might be associated with a medical product to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's ([FDA MedWatch Program](#)) and to the product manufacturer. Of note, this reporting is not limited to the case-finding period specified above.

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