



Porter Adventist Hospital

Centura Health

2525 S. Downing Street
Denver, CO 80210

Wednesday, April 4, 2018

Dear

As a trusted and longstanding health care provider in this community, patient safety is our top priority and we keep our patients at the forefront of every decision we make. You are receiving this letter because you had an orthopedic or spine surgery at Porter Adventist Hospital between July 21, 2016 and February 20, 2018. We recently identified a gap in our pre-cleaning process prior to sterilization of instruments that occurred during this time. As part of our normal quality management process, we track infections and have found **no evidence of patient harm**. However, there is an extremely low risk of surgical site infection or bloodborne pathogen transmission of which patients should be aware.

A surgical site infection typically presents itself within 30 days of surgery. In a very limited number of cases, symptoms may occur up to a year later if the surgery involved placement of a prosthetic implant (such as a joint replacement). Signs of infection may include draining pus, pain, tenderness or redness at the site of the surgical wound. If necessary, your health care provider will provide proper treatment.

The chance of getting an infection from bloodborne pathogens during surgery is extremely low. All instruments go through a heat sterilization process, which is designed to inactivate these viruses. In an abundance of caution, patients who underwent an orthopedic or spine surgical procedure between July 21, 2016 and February 20, 2018 will be given the opportunity to be tested for hepatitis C virus, hepatitis B virus and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) at no cost. The health care provider specified on your Porter medical record for this procedure will also be notified in writing of the situation, including which tests are available.

If you received an orthopedic or spine surgery at Porter Adventist Hospital between July 21, 2016 and February 20, 2018, and you are concerned you may have been infected, we have made arrangements with LabCorp, an independent network of clinical laboratories, to provide free blood testing for you. Porter Adventist Hospital will be responsible for the cost. If you wish to obtain your free blood test, please take this letter to a LabCorp Patient Service Center convenient to you. We have enclosed a list of local LabCorp centers, and a complete listing of locations is available by visiting www.LabCorp.com.

We understand this news may cause concern, and we encourage you to reach out to our hotline at 303-778-5694 with any questions. We realize that you turn to Porter Adventist Hospital for care during your most vulnerable times, and we want to work with you to resolve any concerns about your care and ensure your safety and well-being.

We want to assure you that we have acted to remedy the gap discovered, and recent survey results released by the Joint Commission, which accredits hospitals in the United States, revealed no errors in our processes or protocols.

Sincerely,

Porter Adventist Hospital