

Sample Patient Notification Letter

Dear Sir or Madam,

[HOSPITAL] is notifying patients who have had open-heart surgery, about a potential infection risk related to this surgery. We are contacting you today, as you or a member of your family have been identified in clinical records as a patient who might be affected.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) are investigating reports that a device used to heat and cool the blood during surgery has been linked to a rare bacterial infection caused by *Mycobacterium chimaera*, a type of bacteria known as nontuberculous mycobacterium (NTM). For patients who have had one of these surgeries, the chances of getting this infection are very low. CDC estimates the risk to be less than 1 percent. Of the [number] of patients at [HOSPITAL], who have had open heart surgery, we are aware of [number] of patient(s) who have developed this infection.

This infection is very slow growing and difficult to diagnose. It is possible to develop symptoms years after surgery, so it is important to know the symptoms to look for. Discuss any symptoms or questions you may have with your primary care doctor. This infection cannot be spread person-to-person.

Symptoms of an NTM infection include:

- night sweats
- muscle aches
- weight loss
- fatigue
- unexplained fever

We understand that you and your family might have additional questions or concerns about this information. To help answer them, we have established a hotline at [(555) 555-5555]. The hotline will be available starting [DATE]. You can also find more information on the [HOSPITAL NAME] website at [<http://www.website.com>].

Sincerely,

NAME
| **Chief Health Officer**