HIV and Hepatitis Exposure Concerns on Nevada Reservation

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At least 21 Native Americans in northern Nevada were potentially exposed to HIV, hepatitis B virus (HBV) and hepatitis C virus (HCV), KRNV News reports. Reservation health workers re-used an improperly sterilized blood glucose pen on dozens of patients. Tildon Smart, chairman of the Paiute-Shoshone Tribe, claims employees at the NuNu Diabetes Wellness Clinic in Fort McDermitt "wiped down" the pen between patients, rather than properly sanitizing the device. In response, Indian Health Services is administering free HIV tests on the reservation. However, due to the severity of the error, many tribe members are reluctant to go back to the clinic for their health care.

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