



# Seattle Hospital Warns 650 Dialysis Patients of Possible Hepatitis B Exposure

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A Seattle hospital is warning that lapses in its hepatitis B virus (HBV) screening procedures may have put more than 650 dialysis patients at risk of infection over the last five years, [Tech Times reports](#).

According to health officials in Washington, some staff members at Virginia Mason Hospital have been inconsistent in screening and isolating patients treated in the hospital's three-bed dialysis unit since 2011. Currently, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that HBV-positive patients be treated in a private room, away from other patients. However, Virginia Mason apparently didn't do that and was recently called out by a local nonprofit accreditation company.

Although hospital officials have found no evidence that any diseases were transmitted, they are urging more than 650 patients to get tested for hepatitis B if they have not already. Public health officials likewise said that the risk of transmission is low, because most chronic kidney disease dialysis patients are already regularly screened for HBV.

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<http://beta.docker.hepmag.com/article/seattle-hospital-warns-650-dialysis-patients-possible-hepatitis-b-exposure>