



501 W. 14th Street
PO Box 1668
Wilmington, Delaware 19899
302-733-1000

Dear Patient,

Our records show that you underwent an open-heart surgery at Christiana Hospital on or after Jan. 1, 2012. The purpose of our letter is to inform you about a device-related issue that is affecting many hospitals in the United States and in Europe.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) have notified hospitals and the public about a very small risk of bacterial infection linked to these devices which regulate blood temperature during open-heart surgery.

The bacterium is called *Mycobacterium chimaera*. Patients who have had open-heart surgery may have become exposed during their procedure, and could be at a very low risk of infection. *M. Chimaera* is a common bacterium that is normally not harmful to humans and only rarely causes infections in patients with weakened immune symptoms. It is not contagious.

Symptoms of this infection including the following:

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

Our Infection Prevention team has been actively monitoring this situation. We have identified two patients who have possibly contracted this infection during surgery. We are investigating these cases and are in contact with the patients.

Based on our experience – and our review of the medical literature on the risk of this infection – we believe it is very unlikely that you have or will develop an infection. We nonetheless feel it is important to share this with you because we value the health and well-being of our patients and neighbors and are committed to partnering with you in your care.

Please contact our Patient Relations team if you have any concerning symptoms or any additional questions at 302-733-1340.

We are committed to answering any questions and addressing any concerns you may have as the safety of our patients at Christiana Care is our top priority.

It is a privilege to serve you and we thank you for choosing Christiana Care for your health needs.

Sincerely,

Janice E. Nevin, M.D., MPH
President and CEO

Kenneth L. Silverstein, M.D., MBA
Chief Clinical Officer