



June 9, 2008

Dear Sir or Madam:

As a former patient of the Endoscopy Center of Southern Nevada you should have received a letter earlier this year from the Southern Nevada Health District advising you of your risk of exposure to bloodborne illnesses due to unsafe injection practices at the clinic. It is very important for you to know your infection status and I hope you have followed our recommendation to get tested for hepatitis C, hepatitis B and HIV.

While I can only imagine the stress and frustration you and your family must feel in response to this situation, I want to assure you the health district is committed to working with our community partners to ensure patients are safe when seeking medical care. To this end, the health district is continuing our investigation into the outbreak to better understand the events that lead to patients being infected with hepatitis C and to continue to provide appropriate recommendations and information to those affected.

In order to complete a more thorough investigation of the cases of hepatitis C at both the Endoscopy Center of Southern Nevada and the Desert Shadow Endoscopy Center, we have developed a Hepatitis C Exposure Registry. As a patient of the Endoscopy Center of Southern Nevada we are asking for your assistance in order to gather more information and continue our investigation.

Enclosed with this letter is an enrollment form for the exposure registry. We ask that you complete this form and return it to the health district. The registry was developed to assist in the identification of patients who had procedures at the clinics, including those who are infected with the hepatitis C virus, and will allow patients who have tested positive the opportunity to learn their case classification. The registry will also include sections to allow patients to report on possible hepatitis B or HIV infections.

The registry information and enrollment forms are also available on the health district's website, [www.SouthernNevadaHealthDistrict.org](http://www.SouthernNevadaHealthDistrict.org). In addition, enrollment forms will be available at the health district's public health centers or patients can contact the hepatitis C helpline at (702) 759-4636 (INFO) to request a form.

NOTA: Para obtener esta información en español llame al (702) 759-4636 o visite el sitio web [www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org](http://www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org).

Thank you again for your assistance and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Lawrence Sands, DO, MPH  
Chief Health Officer