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TO: St. Clair County Healthcare
Providers, Hospital ICPs, Emergency
Departments, ED Physicians, Clinicians

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TAMPON-ASSOCIATED TOXIC SHOCK SYNDROME (TSS)

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services has identified a cluster of apparent tampon-associated toxic shock (TSS) cases. Since late 2015, five TSS cases have been reported among young women in Michigan. Cases have occurred in in four different LHDs (Kent, Mid-Michigan, DHD10 and Oakland). TSS is a rare but serious clinical syndrome typically caused by bacterial infection due to Staphylococcus aureus or Streptococcus pyogenes.

Clinical Characteristics:

- Rapidly progressive clinical course
- Symptoms include: sudden fever, vomiting, diarrhea, dizziness, muscle aches, low blood pressure, rash, and shock with multi-organ dysfunction
- To date, the only commonalities found between these cases have involved product selection. Four out of five cases were using super absorbency tampons and four out of five were using Playtex Sport Brand. One case was using U by Kotex.

Recommendations:

- Be aware of early signs of TSS in women presenting for care
- Collect clinical specimens (including vaginal specimens for bacterial culture) and product history (including package barcodes) early in the evaluation
- Remind patients of appropriate tampon usage and the risk of TSS

Call SCCHD with questions or to report suspect cases or actual cases (810) 987-5300.