



ALERT FOR CLINICIANS

Multijurisdictional outbreak of *Ralstonia pickettii*

KEY POINTS

- There is a multijurisdictional outbreak of *Ralstonia pickettii* linked to use of InterPharma sodium chloride 0.9% for irrigation/inhalation 30mL ampoules between August and November 2023.
- WA Health is actively investigating several local cases of *Ralstonia pickettii* infection in WA.
- The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) issued a nationwide [recall](#) on 01 December 2023 for **all** batches of InterPharma sodium chloride 0.9% 30mL ampoules.
- As a precautionary measure, the TGA have also issued a [notice](#) on 01 December 2023 to quarantine two additional sodium chloride 0.9% products manufactured in the same facility as the InterPharma product:
 - *Yes Medical* non-antimicrobial wound irrigation solution, sponsored by YES Medical
 - *Logiwash* sodium chloride for irrigation 0.9% 30 mL, sponsored by Ironbark Creek Investments.
- Four batches of InterPharma sodium chloride 0.9% 10mL ampoules remain quarantined (2304400; 2301530; 2301531; 2207874).
- **Clinicians are requested to:**
 - inspect clinical areas, including areas outside of imprest for any recalled or quarantined products (e.g. trolleys, wound packs, bedside patient drawers)
 - immediately remove the recalled or quarantined products from use
 - liaise with an infectious diseases physician and/or clinical microbiologist for advice about individual patients with *Ralstonia pickettii* infection.
 - monitor the [TGA website](#) for further updates on recall notices and safety alerts.

Clinical considerations

- *Ralstonia pickettii* (formerly known as *Pseudomonas pickettii* then *Burkholderia pickettii*) is a bacteria normally found in soil and water.
- While *Ralstonia pickettii* does not normally cause disease in humans, it can produce illness primarily among patients with significant underlying medical conditions, immunocompromise, or implanted medical devices.
- The clinical spectrum of illness for *Ralstonia pickettii* ranges from asymptomatic infection to bacteraemia, pneumonia, infective endocarditis, peritonitis, meningitis, osteomyelitis, septic arthritis, severe sepsis and septic shock.
- Clinicians should liaise with an infectious diseases physician and/or clinical microbiologist for advice about individual patients with *Ralstonia pickettii* infection.

Background

- A cluster of *Ralstonia pickettii* was initially detected in a private hospital in NSW on 11 September 2023.
- As of 30 November 2023, there were 49 cases (26 confirmed, 23 probable) associated with healthcare facilities across Australia.
- Not all cases have been exposed to the now-recalled InterPharma product, suggesting that other products may be implicated.
- WA Health is actively investigating several local cases of *Ralstonia pickettii* infection; at this stage the infections have not been confirmed as definitively linked to the national outbreak but laboratory analyses are ongoing.

Dr Clare Huppatz

A/DIRECTOR, COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL DIRECTORATE