



To: Emergency Medical Alert Network (EMAN) Participants
Date: July 27, 2007

San Diego Botulism Case Possibly Associated with Recall

A 51 year-old female resident of San Diego County was laboratory-confirmed to have botulism and reports consuming Kroger Chili with Beans 2-3 days prior to symptom onset on July 1, 2007. The woman was hospitalized for 10 days and is currently recovering at home. The canned chili product may be associated with the recent recall, however investigation is ongoing. The product was discarded before the County could test it to determine if it was the cause of illness.

By July 4, 2007, the woman's symptoms included changes in speech, poor balance and weakness. She presented to a local emergency department on July 5, with symptoms eventually including diplopia (double vision), ptosis (droopy eyelids), difficulty breathing, and facial weakness. Healthcare providers evaluating persons with signs of botulism are reminded to immediately contact the Community Epidemiology Branch (CEB) at (619) 515-6620 or 858-565-5255 (after hours) to facilitate the potential release of botulinum antitoxin from the CA Department of Public Health, and to facilitate prompt investigation of potentially contaminated food products.

The San Diego County Department of Environmental Health continues surveillance and field checks of local stores to ensure all recalled product is immediately removed from distribution.

Thank you for your continued participation.

Emergency Medical Alert Network (EMAN)
County of San Diego, Health & Human Services Agency
Community Epidemiology Branch