

Increased Media Coverage on Medical Devices

Monday, November 26, 2018

Over the weekend and continuing into today, there have been numerous reports in the press about alleged problems with medical devices in Canada, the U.S., the UK, and elsewhere. The press reports come out of an investigation called The Implant Files, which was carried out by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists. The press reports have been covered extensively on CBC radio and in the *Toronto Star*, *The Guardian*, and other international publications. The reports allege that patients are experiencing pain or other adverse effects, including death, from inadequate medical devices that have made their way into the market due to poor regulation, inadequate device testing rules, and a lack of transparency. Among the devices that they discuss are replacement hips, pacemakers, hernia mesh, and spinal disc replacements, though these are only a few examples.

These press reports are likely to continue and to result in various inquiries for hospitals. Hospitals are likely to receive inquiries from patients asking for information about what specific devices (make, model, serial number) they have had implanted in them and whether those devices are among the ones alleged in the press reports to be sub-standard. Media inquiries, while less likely, are also possible. Hospitals are urged to be prepared for such inquiries and to have a system in place for responding to them.

The following resources may be helpful to hospitals who want to know more about devices that have been subject to recalls or similar action:

- [The Health Canada register of recent health product recalls and alerts](#)
- The [International Medical Devices Database](#) built by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists and used in the research that forms the basis of these press reports
- [HIROC Risk Note: Responding to Medical Device Issues](#)
- [HIROC Multi-Patient Lookback and Notification Guide](#)

AUTHORS

Anna L. Marrison
T 416.367.6674
AMarrison@blg.com

Ira Parghi
T 416.367.6458
IParghi@blg.com

BLG OFFICES

Calgary

Centennial Place, East Tower
520 3rd Avenue S.W.
Calgary, AB, Canada
T2P 0R3

T +1.403.232.9500
F +1.403.266.1395

Montréal

1000 De La Gauchetière Street West
Suite 900
Montréal, QC, Canada
H3B 5H4

T +1.514.954.2555
F +1.514.879.9015

Ottawa

World Exchange Plaza
100 Queen Street
Ottawa, ON, Canada
K1P 1J9

T +1.613.237.5160
F +1.613.230.8842

Toronto

Bay Adelaide Centre, East Tower
22 Adelaide Street West
Toronto, ON, Canada
M5H 4E3

T 416.367.6000
F 416.367.6749

Vancouver

1200 Waterfront Centre
200 Burrard Street
Vancouver, BC, Canada
V7X 1T2

T 604.687.5744
F 604.687.1415

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