

**METHODS**

A case was defined as an individual who was being treated for CF and had at least one *M. abscessus* positive respiratory culture (i.e., specimen from bronchoscopy, sputum, or throat swab) on record.

- Chart abstractions for the patients’ demographics, medical histories, and histories with Hospital X were performed.
- *M. abscessus* isolates from eight patients were forwarded through the Hawaii State Laboratories Division (SLD) to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for pulsed field gel electrophoresis (PFGE) analysis. Because of *M. abscessus* genetic diversity, a 3-band difference was used as the cutoff when determining relatedness—corresponding to ≈90% similarity.
- Investigation included site visits to Hospital X.
- Visited the laboratory that processes the respiratory specimens to tour the facility, speak with the laboratory technicians, and review procedures and any agents used to process the specimens.
- Visited the CF clinic and adult pulmonary clinic and spoke extensively with technicians and staff who were involved with the care of CF patients.
- Reviewed procedures conducted and medical equipment used on the patients.

**RESULTS**

No geographic pattern was distinguishable in the distribution of patients’ residences.

**DISCUSSION**

- The closely related PFGE patterns indicate that there was a point source of colonization/infection.
- Findings suggest the source of colonization/infection was likely related to the CF clinic’s use of shared equipment, staff, and procedural space with the adult pulmonary clinic of Hospital X.
- Other suggestive findings (e.g. inconsistent equipment maintenance logs recorded by multiple personnel) indicated that lapses in infection control likely occurred.
- Since the change to utilize dedicated equipment, rooms, and staff, there has been only one new case of *M. abscessus* positive cultures among CF patients.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Despite being unable to identify the specific source of infection, this outbreak and the subsequent investigation serve as a reminder of how important strict infection control procedures are in preventing the spread of these types of potentially harmful pathogens in vulnerable populations.