



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH  
LANSING

RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

OLGA DAZZO  
DIRECTOR

Date: February 4, 2011

To: Dr. Susan Smolinske, PharmD, ABAT  
Managing Director of the Hospital of Michigan

From: Olga Dazzo, Director 

Subject: Grant of Authority to Conduct Outbreak Investigation for Michigan Cases of Illness associated with use of "Bath Salts"

This letter serves as a verification of a grant of authority from the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) for you and your staff to conduct the public health activities described here, acting as a public health authority pursuant to the Standards for Privacy of Individually Identifiable Health Information promulgated under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) [45 CFR Parts 160 and 1641. Under this rule, covered entities may disclose, without individual authorization, protected health information to public health authorities ". . . authorized by law to collect or receive such information for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease, injury, or disability, including, but not limited to, the reporting of disease, injury, vital events such as birth or death, and the conduct of public health surveillance, public health investigations, and public health interventions . . . ." The definition of public health authority includes ". . . an individual or entity acting under a grant of authority with such public agency . . . ."

Therefore, the Detroit Poison Control Center (PCC) at Children's Hospital of Michigan under the management of Dr. Susan Smolinske, PharmD, ABAT and her staff is granted authority to conduct surveillance to assist MDCH in identifying the source of the problem and working towards preventing additional illness. The MDCH and the PCC will conduct an outbreak investigation in Michigan of cases of physical or psychological illness associated with the use of "Bath Salts", a new designer drug which may contain any number of derivatives of Methcathinone and 3,4-methylenedioxypropylvalerone (MDPV) chemicals, which constitutes a public health activity as described by 45 CFR § 164.512(b). Reporting of individuals with chemical poisonings, including adverse health effects from ingesting chemical substances, to the Michigan Department of Community Health and local public health is authorized by the Public Health Code (R 325.71-325-75), and is protected from disclosure by Michigan law [MCL §§ 333.2631, 333.2632, and 333.2633] as a medical research project with data to be furnished to the MDCH for public health purposes. The information being requested represents the minimum necessary to carry out the public health purposes of this project pursuant to 45 CFR § 164.514(d) of the Privacy Rule.

If you have general questions about this investigation, please contact Dr. Lorri Cameron at (517) 335-8342 or [CameronL@michigan.gov](mailto:CameronL@michigan.gov). If you have questions or concerns about HIPAA or other privacy laws, please contact: Matthew Rick, Director of the Office of Legal Affairs, Michigan Dept of Community Health, 201 Townsend St FI 7, Lansing, MI 48913 Phone: (517) 241-3988, Fax: (517) 335-8297