

A Recurrent Staph Infection Traced to the Source

How Access TeleCare's teleInfectious Disease coverage identified the source of infection and coordinated treatment from hospital to home



Key Outcomes

The Case

When a patient with an unusual blood clotting disorder presented at a New Mexico hospital with fever and a staph infection in his bloodstream following recent stent placement, the Access TeleCare teleInfectious Disease team began a thorough evaluation to determine the source of infection.

The examination helped rule out infection in the heart valves and identified an infection in the spine. Access TeleCare's teleInfectious Disease specialist recommended a six-week course of intravenous antibiotics and additional specialized testing to determine whether the recently placed stent was infected.

The Care Plan

After completing the initial antibiotic course in July, the patient returned to the same hospital three months later with fever and the same staph infection in his blood. The Access TeleCare team again strongly encouraged specialized testing and helped arrange transfer to another New Mexico hospital where the specialized test was available.

Testing confirmed the infection was in the stent. Because Access TeleCare also covered teleInfectious Disease services at the receiving hospital, the team continued supporting the patient's care, developed a treatment plan, and coordinated his return to the original hospital. He was ultimately discharged with a PICC line for six weeks of intravenous antibiotics.

The Result

Access TeleCare's outpatient teleInfectious Disease specialist managed the patient through the full antibiotic course, monitoring for side effects, tolerance, and clinical progress. At the end of therapy, the physician placed him on oral suppressive antibiotics to help prevent recurrence.

The patient remains infection-free and fever-free. He has returned to riding his motorcycle across the Southwest and, as a former EMT, was especially engaged in his care and grateful for the specialty support that helped him recover.



Identified stent infection in a patient with staph infection



Recommended advanced testing that confirmed infection in a recently placed stent



Supported transfer for specialized diagnostic testing



Coordinated care planning across two inpatient settings and outpatient care through continuous teleInfectious Disease coverage



Managed outpatient IV antibiotics and suppressive therapy; patient remains infection-free

"This case illustrates the importance of both inpatient and outpatient teleInfectious Disease. Our team recommended specialized testing, developed the treatment plan, and managed him through his IV antibiotic course in both the inpatient and outpatient settings. To this day, the patient is doing well, remains infection-free and fever-free, and is back to doing what he loves most."



WATCH THE VIDEO
Scan the code to hear the full story from Dr. Le

Jade Le, M.D.

Chief of Infectious Disease
Access TeleCare

