

SAMPLE LETTER TO HOSPITAL(S)

This is a sample letter an MH-susceptible individual could send to his/her local hospital(s). Its purpose is to advise the hospital(s) there is an MH-susceptible individual/family in the area and to determine whether the hospital is adequately prepared to treat MH. The wording can be adapted to fit individual circumstances. It is **recommended that the following booklet be ordered** with the letter:

"Guide to Malignant Hyperthermia In an Anesthesia Setting"

This letter can be addressed to the hospital's Chief of Anesthesiology, to the Chief of the Emergency Room and to the Chief of the Intensive Care Unit if this hospital has that level of care and to the hospital Medical Director and to the Chief Executive Officer.

Dear

I am a member of a malignant hyperthermia (MH) susceptible family and I reside in your treatment area. Exposing an MH-susceptible individual to the volatile inhalation anesthetics or succinylcholine may trigger a potentially fatal MH reaction. As a result, I can only have surgery at those facilities that are fully prepared to treat MH. While it is relatively easy to schedule elective surgery at such a hospital, it is more difficult to ensure I arrive at a prepared facility in the event of an emergency. MH susceptible individuals have died after receiving succinylcholine in the Emergency Room when they presented with high temperature and muscle rigidity without exposure to ANY anesthetic drugs.

The Malignant Hyperthermia Association of the United States (MHAUS) and the Anesthesia Patient Safety Foundation both recommend that every facility where general anesthesia is administered and/or where succinylcholine is used have in place a well-defined protocol and means to diagnose and treat MH. This includes continuous temperature monitoring during every general anesthetic and maintenance of an adequate supply of unexpired **dantrolene sodium for injection** near the operating room. MHAUS recommends stocking three (3) vials of dantrolene in the form of Ryanodex or thirty-six (36) vials of dantrolene sodium in the form of Dantrium or Revonto.

Please let me know if your hospital is adequately prepared to handle an MH crisis.

You may wish to contact MHAUS directly for more information for your operating room staff. You may wish to schedule a MH Prep Check or to obtain a MH Mock Drill Kit from MHAUS. (www.mhaus.org)

Sincerely,

Enclosures