

Serum Mix-Up: Court Sees No Harm, No Foul.

According to the US District Court for the Central District of Illinois, it was discovered that a nurse in a Federal correctional facility used tetanus/diphtheria vaccine for the intradermal injection, rather than the tuberculin serum, during routine tuberculin screening of a group of inmates. The two products are made by the same manufacturer, are packaged in similar vials and happened to be stored in the same area of the prison dispensary.

When the error was discovered all of the affected inmates were notified. One inmate had some redness and itching at the injection site.

Two weeks later another inmate complained of headaches, abdominal pain, diarrhea, weight loss, swollen arms and dizziness starting 30 minutes after the injection. The court dismissed these complaints, and his lawsuit, based on medical testimony that such symptoms could not have come from the injection. **Brumfield v. Dintelman**, 2006 WL 452508 (C.D. Ill, February 23, 2006).