



Effective Health Care

Morgellons Disease

Nomination Summary Document

Results of Topic Selection Process & Next Steps

- Morgellons disease was found to be addressed by an in-process research project by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Given that the in-process CDC investigation covers this nomination, no further activity will be undertaken on this topic. More details can be found at the study website (<http://www.cdc.gov/unexplaineddermopathy/investigation.html>).

Topic Description

Nominator: Individual

Nomination Summary: The nominator questions when treatments will be available for patients with Morgellons disease. She requests that treatments become available to help alleviate the symptoms of itching/biting and tiredness.

Key Questions from Nominator: 1. When will there be a treatment available to use to combat this disease?

Considerations

- It is unclear whether topic meets all EHC selection criteria. Morgellons disease is currently not a recognized disease with established diagnostic criteria or treatment protocols. (For more information, see <http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/submit-a-suggestion-for-research/how-are-research-topics-chosen/>.)
- In January 2008, the CDC announced the launch of an investigation of unexplained dermopathy (Morgellons) with Kaiser Permanente's Northern California Division of Research and the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. This investigation was triggered by request letters from at least 40 members of Congress and hundreds of letters a month from patients, health care professionals, and public health officials. The primary goals of this investigation are to learn who may be affected with this condition and the symptoms they experience and to generate hypotheses about factors that may contribute to this condition. Researchers will also assess the histopathology of skin biopsies from affected patients, characterizing foreign material such as fibers or threads obtained from persons with the condition.
- The website for the research project states that study recruitment, examination of participants, and collection of samples has been completed and that the CDC is currently analyzing the data. Results of this study will most likely be published in a peer-reviewed scientific journal and disseminated through other channels, to CDC's public health partners, such as State and local health departments and medical societies, and through the study website.