Information provided by NSW Health: Health information for patients of Safuan Hasic (also known as Steven Hasic), 70 Victoria Avenue, Mortdale.

What is the issue?

Patients of Safuan Hasic (also known as Steven Hasic), who previously worked as a dental practitioner based in Mortdale, are being urged to get tested for blood borne viruses as a precautionary measure after the Chief Health Officer issued a public health warning about infection control breaches identified at the practice.

Mr Hasic was a dental practitioner before being suspended by the Dental Council of NSW in September 2025. However, since 2022 the Dental Council has imposed conditions on his registration restricting his ability to treat patients.

A recent audit of Mr Hasic's premises at 70 Victoria Avenue, Mortdale, NSW 2223 by the Dental Council of NSW identified potential infection breaches and raised concerns that he was practising in breach of his registration conditions. This resulted in the Chief Health Officer issuing a public warning and NSW Health issuing a closure order for the dental surgery at 70 Victoria Avenue Mortdale.

What is the risk?

The evidence of poor cleaning and inadequate sterilisation of dental equipment means dental work performed at the practice may have posed a low risk of exposure to blood borne viruses.

A blood borne virus could have spread from one patient to another on dental instruments. Blood borne viruses include hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and HIV.

Poor infection control could also cause other types of infections from bacteria or viruses. These other infections cause acute symptoms and generally don't lead to long-term problems, and testing is not needed for these other infections if you don't have symptoms.

Who is at risk?

Any patient who has had dental work done by Mr Hasic may be at risk of blood borne viruses. The risk is higher where a needle or other dental instrument broke the skin, gums, or tooth root, or where there was bleeding. However, even in these cases the infection risk is still low.

What do I need to do?

All patients of Mr Hasic are recommended to see their GP for precautionary testing for blood borne viruses. These are hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and HIV.

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How will I know if I have been infected?

Blood borne viruses may not cause any signs or symptoms for years but can be easily detected on a blood test.

Bacterial and other viral infections usually show signs like pain or swelling in the mouth within a few days to weeks. No testing is required for bacterial or other viral infections if you have no symptoms.

Does it matter how long ago I was treated by Mr Hasic?

Mr Hasic has been doing dental work at 70 Victoria Avenue Mortdale since the 1980s. As there is no certainty about how his infection control practices have differed over time, we suggest that anyone who had dental treatment there at any time should have a test for blood borne viruses.

If you have had tests for hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV after your last visit with Mr Hasic, you should still check with their GP if more tests are required, even if results were negative.

Do I need to tell anyone or take precautions before I get tested?

As the risk is low you do not need to tell anyone or take any new precautions. We do recommend that you speak with your GP as soon as possible and they can arrange testing and provide advice specific to your situation.

What does it mean if I test positive for a blood borne virus?

A positive result means that you have been infected with a blood borne virus at some point in the past. A positive result could be caused by the dental work at 70 Victoria Avenue Mortdale, however people can be infected with a blood borne virus in other ways (such as through unprotected sex with a partner who has a blood borne virus).

If you have a positive test your GP will arrange for additional tests and treatment, if needed.

Where can I find more information?

Further information on blood borne viruses is available from the <u>NSW Health Infectious</u> <u>Diseases fact</u> sheets on hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and HIV.

Fact sheets in other languages are available from the <u>Multicultural HIV and Hepatitis</u> <u>Service</u>.

If you have any other questions about blood borne viruses, speak with your GP or contact your local public health unit on 1300 066 055.

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If you have any concerns regarding dental treatment provided by Mr Hasic, you can make a complaint to the Health Care Complaints Commission at www.hccc.nsw.gov.au or to the Dental Council of NSW at www.dentalcouncil.nsw.gov.au.