

Bed bugs force temporary closure of Manchester VA clinic

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MANCHESTER — Federal officials confirmed that a case of bed bugs, believed to have been brought in by one veteran needing care, forced the temporary closure of an urgent care clinic at the troubled Manchester VA Medical Center earlier this week.

The clinic closed for several hours Wednesday after the bugs were found on someone within an examination room.

The space was closed from about noon to 4:15 p.m.

VA spokesman Kristin Pressly stressed that the veteran was immediately taken from the general population in urgent care to a special treatment room.

“Out of an abundance of caution, we temporarily curtailed Manchester VA Medical Center urgent care services until pest treatment was completed and we confirmed no other bed bugs were present,” Pressly said.

Officials said the incident didn’t qualify as an emergency and that those suffering from this outbreak had been treated at one other location before coming to Manchester.

The Manchester clinic was the source of a Boston Globe report in July that had whistleblowers decrying what they called “Third World” care that included a fly-infested room and surgical instruments that weren’t sterilized.

U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs David Shulkin removed the Medical Center’s top two administrators soon after that report and created a task force to chart a future course for the complex.