

Carbapenem-Resistant *Acinetobacter baumannii* (CRAB) Health Advisory July 20, 2021

Situational Update

Multiple healthcare facilities are experiencing outbreaks of highly drug-resistant carbapenemase-producing *Acinetobacter baumannii* (CRAB). This update provides a list of facilities from which to monitor admissions and accompanying infection control recommendations. This list is for **internal use only**.

Communication between Healthcare Facilities:

All multi-drug resistant organisms (MDRO) should be clearly communicated between facilities, especially when patients are colonized or infected with unusual organisms like carbapenemase-producing (NDM) carbapenem-resistant *A. baumannii* (CRAB).

- Inter-facility transfer forms or equivalent communication should be used any time patients colonized or infected by MDRO are transferred between healthcare facilities. The CDPH Interfacility Transfer Form is [here](#) for reference.
- **If your facility is transferring a patient who is known to be colonized or infected with NDM CRAB your staff should make a call to the receiving facility to make sure they are aware of the patient's status.**

Case managers should also be informed of the importance of clear communication regarding this organism.

Admission Recommendations:

If your facility admits a patient from any one of the facilities listed above, please carry out the following steps:

- **Confirm the patient's NDM CRAB status** with the transferring facility.
 - If positive, place patient on Contact precautions; place in a single room if possible.
 - If negative or unknown status, place patient on empiric Contact precautions, and in a single room (if possible) until screened for NDM CRAB and result returns negative.
- **Facilities can screen patients** for NDM CRAB by:
 - Collecting respiratory (if vented or trached), urine (if catheter), wound (if present), or axilla/groin cultures, and if positive for CRAB, obtaining carbapenemase testing; OR
 - Collecting surveillance swabs (e.g., rectal) and obtaining carbapenemase testing.
 - If the options above are not available, contact Sacramento County Public Health (SCPH) to coordinate rectal colonization testing through the CDC Antibiotic Resistance Laboratory.
- Once a patient has been identified with NDM CRAB, it is not necessary to rescreen them.
- If the patient is discharged before screening has taken place, please inform the receiving facility of the need for empiric Contact precautions, and contact SCPH to report the patient has been transferred.



7001-A East Parkway, Suite 600A
Sacramento, CA 95823
phone (916) 875-5881
fax (916) 854-9709
www.scph.com

Resources:

1. CDPH: https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/Pages/CRE_InfectionPreventionStrategies.aspx
2. CDPH Healthcare Facility Transfer Form:
https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/CDPH%20Document%20Library/InterfacilityTransferCommunication_Abbreviated.pdf

Sincerely,

Olivia Kasirye MD

Olivia Kasirye, MD, MS
Public Health Officer