

Carbapenem-Resistant Organisms

Infection Prevention in Acute Care and Long-Term Acute Care Hospitals

To stop the spread of carbapenem-resistant organisms (CROs) in your facility, we recommend employing the following infection prevention strategies.

1. Hand Hygiene

- Promote, monitor, and provide feedback on hand hygiene.
- Ensure access to hand hygiene stations.
- Educate visitors.

2. Contact Precautions

- Place all CRO colonized or infected patients on contact precautions. (See Table 1)
- Consider preemptive contact precautions on patients admitted after recent hospitalization (within 6 – 12 months) in a country outside the U.S. or in patients transferred from facilities known to have outbreaks or clusters of CRO colonized or infected patients.
- Monitor and provide feedback on adherence to proper contact precaution practices.
- CDC does not recommend discontinuing contact precautions in most situations.

3. Healthcare Personnel (HCP) and Visitor Education

- HCP and visitors should be educated about preventing transmission of CROs .
- At a minimum this should include education and training on the proper use of contact precautions and hand hygiene.
- Post clear and concise isolation signs on the door.

4. Minimize Use of Invasive Devices

- Devices should be discontinued promptly when no longer needed.

5. Timely Notification

- Laboratories should ensure they have timely notification protocols in place to alert appropriate healthcare personnel of a positive CRO specimen.

6. Communication of CRO Status at Discharge and Transfer

- If a patient with CRO infection/colonization is transferred to another facility, ensure that CRO information is shared with accepting facility.

7. Promotion of Antimicrobial Stewardship

- Ensure that antimicrobials are used for appropriate durations and that the appropriate narrowest spectrum antimicrobial is used.
- CDC has identified core elements for successful [hospital antimicrobial stewardship](#) programs.

8. Environmental Cleaning

- Perform daily cleanings that include areas such as bed rails, patient trays and other areas in close proximity to the patient.
- Clean and disinfect areas around sinks regularly and do not store medical equipment near sinks.

9. Patient and Staff Cohorting

- Place all CRO colonized or infected patients in single-patient rooms when possible
- Cohort colonized or infected patients and the staff that care for them even if patients are in single rooms.
- Reserve single rooms for patients with highest transmission risk.

10. Screening Contacts of CRO Patients

- Screen patients with epidemiologic links to newly-identified CRO colonized or infected patients.
- Contact your local health department for information about colonization screening for carbapenemase-producing organisms.

11. Active Surveillance Testing

- Screen high risk patients at admission.
- Contact your local health department for information about colonization screening for carbapenemase-producing organisms.

Resources

Facility Guidance for Control of CRE: <https://www.cdc.gov/hai/organisms/cre/cre-toolkit/index.html>

Management of MDROs in Healthcare Settings: <https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/mdro/index.html>

Containment Strategy for MDROs: <https://www.cdc.gov/hai/>

[containment/guidelines.html](https://www.cdc.gov/hai/containment/guidelines.html)

Duration of Contact Precautions for Acute Care Settings: <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/infection-control-and-hospitalepidemiology/article/duration-of-contact-precautions-for-acutecaresettings/94E38FDCE6E1823BD613ABE4E8CB5E56>

Carbapenem-Resistant Organisms

Infection Prevention in Acute Care and Long-Term Acute Care Hospitals

Intensity of infection prevention measures is based on mechanism of carbapenem resistance, patient's clinical status, and factors that increase risk of transmission to other patients in the facility. General guidance is listed below.

Table 1. Infection Prevention Recommendations

Infection Prevention Measure	Carbapenemase-Producing Organism		Non-Carbapenemase-Producing Organism	
	Infected	Colonized	Infected	Colonized
Standard Precautions	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Contact Precautions	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Private Room	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes; if feasible
Restricted to Room*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Door signage	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Designated or disposable equipment	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

*Except when medically necessary