

- 1. Carbapenem-resistant organisms (CROs)** are a group of organisms (bacteria) that have become resistant to more than 10 antibiotics in a class of antibiotics called carbapenems.
- 2. Carbapenemase-producing organisms (CPOs)** are CROs that make an extra enzyme (carbapenemase) that make it easier to spread in healthcare settings and even harder to treat than some CROs that don't make the special enzyme.

Infection Prevention Checklist



- Residents with CRO or CPO infection or colonization will need either Contact Precautions or Enhanced Barrier Precautions.
 - Contact Precautions** (gown and gloves for **all room entries**): if resident has acute diarrhea, draining wounds, or other sites of secretions or excretions that are unable to be covered or contained **OR** if there is a suspected or confirmed CRO or CPO outbreak on the unit **OR** if the resident has another infection (like *C. difficile* or norovirus) that needs Contact Precautions.
 - This requires a private room.
 - People can remain colonized with CRO or CPO for long periods of time and potentially indefinitely. Discontinuing Contact Precautions for residents with a history of CRO or CPO is generally not recommended.
 - Enhanced Barrier Precautions [gown and gloves for **high-contact resident care activities** (e.g., dressing, bathing, transferring, providing hygiene, changing linens, changing briefs/helping with toileting, device care or use, wound care)]: if resident does not meet criteria for Contact Precautions above.
 - No private room required; resident is not restricted to their room.
 - For more information: <https://www.cdc.gov/hai/containment/PPE-Nursing-Homes.html>
 - Place a sign on the resident's door to indicate the type of precautions and personal protective equipment (PPE) needed
- Notify resident and staff of positive CRO or CPO test (See "How to Share the News" below).
- Notify your local health department (<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/health-department-locator/>). They will discuss how to prevent CRO or CPO from spreading in your facility, which may include screening other residents to see if they also have CRO or CPO.
- Increase auditing of infection prevention strategies
 - Hand hygiene
 - PPE use

5. Make sure the resident's CRO or CPO status is communicated if the resident is transferred within the facility or to another facility so that appropriate prevention strategies can remain in place. Example of an interfacility communication form (CDC):
<https://www.cdc.gov/hai/pdfs/toolkits/Interfacility-IC-Transfer-Form-508.pdf>

CRO or CPO: How to Share the News



1. **To the resident and those authorized to receive health information:**
You (or your loved one) has tested positive for (CRO or CPO). CRO or CPO is a drug-resistant germ (bacteria) that can spread from person to person.

If the resident has a CRO or CPO infection: The CRO or CPO is currently causing an infection in your [wound/blood/urine] and we will be treating this infection.

If the resident tested positive for colonization of CRO or CPO: You are not sick from CRO or CPO right now but the germ could still spread to other residents or staff.

We will be taking extra precautions like wearing gowns and gloves [and giving you care in your room, whenever possible (if resident is on Contact Precautions)] to make sure the germ doesn't spread to others. We will also be cleaning our hands a lot and encourage you to do the same.
2. **To healthcare workers:** This resident is now positive for CRO or CPO and requires [Contact Precautions or Enhanced Barrier Precautions]. You must wear gown and gloves [every time you go into the room (if Contact Precautions) / every time you are doing a high-contact resident care activity (if Enhanced Barrier Precautions)], clean equipment after use, and always do good hand hygiene. CRO or CPO can cause healthcare outbreaks. This puts all our residents at risk so it is important to be consistent with these infection prevention measures.

Additional Resources



- CDC – Healthcare Facilities Information About Carbapenem-Resistant Enterobacteriales:
<https://www.cdc.gov/hai/organisms/cre/cre-facilities.html>
- More information on colonization screening, FAQs and example verbal scripts to request assent with MDRO screening, interfacility communication form, infection prevention strategies
- VDH - Carbapenem-Resistant Organisms webpage (see “Infection Prevention Resources” section):
<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/haiar/diseases-organisms/carbapenem-resistant-organisms-cro/>
- More details on prevention strategies in long-term care facilities