Infection Prevention Rapid Resource

Healthcare for CPOs

CPOs (carbapenemase-producing organisms) are the most contagious and dangerous of carbapenem-resistant bacteria like Carbapenem-resistant *Enterobacterales* (CRE) and carbapenem-resistant *Acinetobacter baumannii* (CRAB).

- **They have the highest level of resistance** (even to last-line antibiotics) by producing the carbapenemase enzyme.
- **They are more contagious** and harder to treat or control.

Care

Wear proper PPE (gowns and gloves) and dedicate medical equipment when possible.

In nursing homes, use Enhanced Barrier Precautions unless Contact Precautions are indicated. Use Contact Precautions in other settings.

Dedicate care equipment (stethoscope, blood pressure cuff) to the room when possible.

Transfer

Alert receiving staff when someone with a CPO is transferred.

Use transfer forms to document infection control needs.

Ensure staff are aware of necessary precautions before transfer.

Limit broad-spectrum antibiotics to prevent resistance.

Disinfect

→ Focus on cleaning high-touch areas that spread CPOs, like shared medical equipment.

→ Use EPA-approved products to kill CPOs.

→ Clean surfaces thoroughly where CPOs can survive, especially during outbreaks and around those with CPOs.

Tell your healthcare provider if you've ever had a CPO to help stop the spread.

Scan to learn more from VDH about CPO care.

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