

# Carbapenem-Resistant *Acinetobacter baumannii* (CRAB)



CRAB is a bacteria that spreads in healthcare settings and can be difficult to treat.

## WHAT is CRAB?

- CRAB is a type of bacteria that can cause serious infections.

## WHY are experts concerned? WHY should we be concerned?

- CRAB can be difficult to treat because it is often resistant to antibacterial medications.
- It can be spread from person-to-person, or from contaminated surfaces and shared medical equipment.
- Most people who carry CRAB do not have any signs or symptoms; this is called colonization.
- CRAB infections can be difficult to treat and can lead to severe illness or death.

## WHO is at the greatest risk of getting CRAB?

- People in healthcare facilities who have unhealed wounds or tubes that go into their body (e.g., feeding tubes, breathing tubes, and central lines).
- People with weakened immune systems.
- Other risk factors include having a complex medical history, recent surgery, or disrupted skin integrity.
- Healthy people have a lower risk of getting CRAB.

## HOW can I protect our patients from CRAB?

- Use contact precautions (i.e., hand hygiene, gown, and gloves) when caring for a person with known or suspected CRAB.
- Thoroughly disinfect surfaces and medical equipment.
- Always follow contact isolation instructions posted at the patient's room.

## WHERE can I get more information?

- [www.sdhai.org](http://www.sdhai.org)

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