

Carbapenem-Resistant *Enterobacterales* (CRE)



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

WHAT is CRE?

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

WHY are experts concerned? WHY should we be concerned?

- CRE 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 CRE do not have any signs or symptoms; this is called colonization.
- CRE infections can be difficult to treat and can lead to severe illness or death.

WHO is at the greatest risk of getting CRE?

- 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 CRE.

HOW can I protect our patients from CRE?

- Use contact precautions (i.e., hand hygiene, gown, and gloves) when caring for a person with known or suspected CRE.
- 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

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