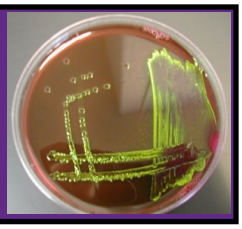
Carbapenem-resistant *Enterobacterales* Information for Veterinarians

My small animal patient has been diagnosed with a CRE, now what?



What is carbapenem-resistant *Enterobacterales* (CRE)?

- CRE is a type of bacteria (e.g., *E. coli, Klebsiella)* that are resistant to drugs such as imipenem and meropenem as well as many other antimicrobials.
- Isolating CRE has public health implications because CRE can cause severe infections that are difficult to treat in both pets and people.

Where did my patient get this bacteria?

- *Enterobacterales* and CRE can colonize the GI tracts of healthy people and pets.
- In pets, infections typically occur when CRE spreads to the lungs, urinary tract or wounds.
- CRE can be spread by contaminated feces, fluids, hands, surfaces, or equipment.

Is there risk to my staff and other patients?

- It is possible to share CRE between pets and people, but the risk is believed to be low.
- Immunosuppressed veterinary staff and patients should avoid contact with CRE patients when possible.
- Everyone can reduce spread by washing hands.
- Anyone concerned about CRE exposure or illness should consult their healthcare provider.

How can we treat my patient?

- CRE infections can be challenging to treat; consult with a pharmacologist, microbiologist, or infectious disease specialist as needed.
- Consider topical antimicrobials when applicable.
- Remove any nidus (e.g. implants), and drain and clean wounds.
- There is no evidence for treating healthy pets colonized with CRE.

General precautions

- Isolate hospitalized CRE patients, minimize staff caring for them, and wash hands after contact.
- Have CRE patients urinate/defecate in a separate area, and disinfect area frequently.
- Wear gloves, gowns, and masks when handling a CRE patient, cleaning wounds, changing bandages, or handling bodily fluids.
- Be careful to not cross-contaminate hospital surfaces and equipment with CRE.
- Follow manufacturer guidelines closely for all disinfectants (e.g., dilution, storage, contact time).

Where can I find more information?

- Kansas Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
  (785) 532-5650 http://www.ksvdl.org/
- MU Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory
  (573) 882-8367 https://vmdl.missouri.edu/
- CDC CRE and Veterinarian Basics
- PennVet CREATE CRE Plan and Response Resource

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