

Please present this card when attending any healthcare facility

Carry this card with you

CPE information card

Can I obtain further information?

Further information can be found on the following website:

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-England

Or telephone 0344 811 8111 and ask to speak to the Infection Prevention and Control Team.

PIN 724/V1

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Advice to Healthcare Professionals

This patient has been identified as being either infected or colonised with a CPE bacteria.

When in close contact with this patient you should adopt standard precautions and observe strict hand hygiene (hand sanitiser is effective against these bacteria).

Antibiotic exposure will encourage the growth of these bacteria and therefore should be strictly controlled.

These bacteria are often resistant to other groups of antibiotics as well as the Carbapenems so expert advice should be sought.

If the patient requires admission to a healthcare facility they should be isolated. The facility should be informed **prior** to admission of the patient's CPE status.

Can I be cured of CPE?

No, over time it is possible that your body will eliminate the bacteria.

We would not routinely test you again to see if you have eliminated the bacteria.

There are currently no treatments available to eliminate these bacteria from your gut.

The fewer antibiotics you receive, the more likely you are to eliminate these bacteria from your body.

Testing for CPE

We can detect CPE carriers though two routes:

1. Routine sample submitted to the laboratory e.g. sputum, urine or wound swab
2. Rectal swab screening

Within the laboratory all specimens are examined to ensure they don't contain the bacteria.

Rectal swabs may be taken if you were in contact with a patient who was subsequently found to have been a CPE carrier.

Carbapenemase Producing Enterobacteriaceae (CPE)

CPE identified on _____

Remember to carry this card at all times and present it to the healthcare professional in the hospital or community who is looking after you

What is CPE?

Carbapenemase Producing Enterobacteriaceae (CPE) are a group of bacteria that have become resistant to our strongest antibiotics, the Carbapenems.

These bacteria typically live harmlessly in our gut and don't cause us any problems. People with these bacteria are known as carriers.

However, if the bacteria enter a part of the body e.g. the bladder where they are not supposed to be they can cause an infection which would require antibiotics.

What are the Carbapenems?

The Carbapenem antibiotic family include; Meropenem, Imipenem, Ertapenem and Doripenem.

They are all given into a vein (intravenously) and are only usually prescribed in hospitals.

This group of antibiotics are kept for patients when they are very unwell. If we know in advance that you have previously had this bacteria we would use a different antibiotic to treat you.

What does this result mean?

CPE Carriers

A positive result often means that you have the bacteria in your body but does not mean that you are infected and you may not require treatment.

However if you are in close contact with other ill patients you may pass these bacteria on to them, especially if they are receiving antibiotics. This is unlikely to happen outside of the hospital setting.

At home or in the community you don't need to take any special care as in these settings it is unlikely to be passed on to others including family members.

CPE in Hospital

In hospitals, where there will be patients who are on antibiotics, we need to take precautions to reduce the risk of you passing on the CPE to another patient.

Therefore we will nurse you in a side-room throughout your hospital stay. All staff will wear aprons and gloves when in close contact with you. You will have your own toilet facilities either an en-suite or a commode.

We will provide gloves and aprons for your visitors to wear when they visit you.

All staff and visitors will be asked to maintain good hand hygiene after contact with you.

All other aspects of your care will remain unchanged.