



## Health Alert

July 12, 2021

### Multiple Healthcare Facilities Experiencing Outbreaks of drug-resistant carbapenemase-producing *Acinetobacter baumannii*

The Fresno County Department of Public Health is informing Fresno County acute care hospitals, long-term acute care hospitals, and skilled nursing facilities of outbreaks of highly drug-resistant carbapenemase-producing *Acinetobacter baumannii* in multiple healthcare facilities in the state. California Department of Public Health (CDPH) is working with these facilities to contain transmission.

*A. baumannii* are a group of bacteria that are found in the healthcare environment (e.g., water, environmental surfaces, devices), and are naturally resistant to many antibiotics. Carbapenem Resistant *A. Bamannii* (CRAB) are resistant to carbapenems, “last-resort” antibiotics such as meropenem and imipenem; this resistance can occur through production of carbapenemase enzymes such as NDM and OXA-23. Carbapenemase can inactivate carbapenems and other antibiotics. Carbapenemase-producing CRAB are of particular concern due to their increased resistance and transmissibility.

#### Guidance Recommendations

- All multidrug-resistant organisms (MDRO) should be clearly communicated between facilities, especially when patients are colonized or infected with unusual organisms like carbapenemase-producing (NDM/OXA-23) carbapenem-resistant *A. baumannii* (CRAB).
- Interfacility transfer forms or equivalent communication should be used any time patients colonized or infected with MDRO are transferred between healthcare facilities. Your facility may choose to use the [CDPH Interfacility Transfer Form](#).
- **If your facility is transferring a patient who is known to be colonized or infected with NDM CRAB your staff should make a call to the receiving facility to make sure they are aware of the patient’s status.**

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Categories of Health Alert Messages:

**Health Alert:** Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention

**Health Advisory:** Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action

**Health Update:** Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action

**Health Information:** Provides general health information which is not considered to be of emergent nature

#### ***Promotion, preservation and protection of the community’s health***

1221 Fulton Street, Fresno, CA 93721 · P.O. Box 11867, Fresno, CA 93775  
(559) 600-3200 · FAX (559) 600-7687

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### **Admission Recommendations**

If your facility admits a patient from any one of the facilities listed above, please carry out the following steps:

- **Confirm the patient's NDM CRAB status with the transferring facility.**
  - If positive, place patient on Contact precautions; place in a single room if possible.
  - If negative or unknown status, place patient on empiric Contact precautions, and in a single room (if possible) until screened for NDM CRAB and result returns negative.
- **Facilities can screen patients for NDM CRAB by:**
  - Collecting respiratory (if vented or trached), urine (if catheter), wound (if present), or axilla/groin cultures, and if positive for CRAB, obtaining carbapenemase testing; OR
  - Collecting surveillance swabs (e.g., rectal) and obtaining carbapenemase testing.
  - If the options above are not available, contact LHJ to coordinate rectal colonization testing through the CDC Antibiotic Resistance Laboratory.
- Once a patient has been identified with NDM CRAB, it is not necessary to rescreen them.
  - When possible, make a note of CRAB colonization in the patient's file for subsequent admissions to the facility.
- If the patient is discharged before screening has taken place, please inform the receiving facility of the need for empiric Contact Precautions, and contact LHJ to report the patient has been transferred

**For more information about NDM CRAB, please see the CDPH Carbapenem-resistant and Carbapenemase-producing Organisms visit:**

[https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/Pages/CRE\\_InfectionPreventionStrategies.aspx](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/Pages/CRE_InfectionPreventionStrategies.aspx).

**CDC Website:** <https://www.cdc.gov/hai/organisms/acinetobacter.html>

If you have questions regarding NDM CRAB, or to arrange for screening testing of patients, please contact the FCDPH Communicable Disease Investigations Program at (559) 600-3332.

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