

## DISCHARGE INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS RETURNING HOME WITH AN EMERGING ANTIBIOTIC-RESISTANT GERM

Many antibiotic medications do not work when someone is sick with an antibiotic-resistant germ. Patients can have these germs and show no symptoms or signs of sickness, which is called colonization. Colonized patients can spread the germs to other patients and the care environment. There is currently no effective treatment for colonization with emerging antibiotic-resistant germs and re-testing patients is not recommended.

Antibiotic-resistant germs are more likely to impact (colonize or infect) patients who require frequent medical care at hospitals and nursing homes. These patients often have many risk factors, such as weakened immune systems, use of antibiotics, or having medical devices like tubes or catheters going into their body. Family and household members who are healthy have a low chance of getting antibiotic-resistant germs.

### CARE AT HOME

- Infections can be prevented or controlled through appropriate personal hygiene by regularly washing the body and hair with soap/shampoo and water.
- Individuals taking care of patients with antibiotic-resistant germs should wash their hands or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer before and after providing care or touching medical devices.
- Hand hygiene (including hand washing with soap and water or using hand sanitizer) is particularly important in preventing the spread of these germs to others if the household caregiver assists multiple household members with routine care at home.
- Individuals taking care of patients with antibiotic-resistant germs should also consider wearing disposable gloves when they have contact with a patient's wounds or body fluids, such as blood, stool, urine, and vomit; always perform hand hygiene before and after glove use.

**Tell your health care providers, including any home health care workers or aides, that you have an antibiotic-resistant germ.** They can take action to prevent spreading it by cleaning their hands and wearing a gown and gloves as needed. They will also have to clean and disinfect any reusable equipment that was used during care.

### WHAT SHOULD YOU DO WHEN YOU RECEIVE MEDICAL CARE AT A HOSPITAL, DIALYSIS CENTER OR OTHER HEALTH CARE FACILITY?

It is important to carry this information with your medical paperwork. **Please show this information to your health care team whenever you receive medical care** in an emergency department, hospital, dialysis center, nursing home or other health care facility. **It is important for health care facilities and providers to know who has these germs and take steps to prevent these germs from spreading to other patients.**

## INFORMATION FOR YOUR HEALTH CARE PROVIDER

### \*CARBAPENEMASE-PRODUCING ORGANISM MEDICAL ALERT\*

Patient Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Health Care Worker,

Carbapenemase-producing organisms (CPOs) are resistant bacteria that can cause severe infections among vulnerable patients, including patients who require hospitalization or long-term care. CPOs can be easily spread within health care settings through direct or indirect contact with contaminated medical devices and equipment, contaminated environmental surfaces, or individuals colonized or infected with CPOs. There is currently no effective treatment for CPO colonization and re-testing carriers for clearance is not recommended.

When caring for a patient colonized and/or infected with a CPO:

- Place the patient on Contact Precautions and in a private room (if available).
- Thoroughly clean and disinfect the patient's room and medical equipment/devices with EPA-registered disinfectants.
- Use as much dedicated and/or disposable equipment and devices as possible.
- Use alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water to wash your hands at all key moments for hand hygiene.
- Flag the patient's medical record to indicate their positive CPO status and the continued need for Contact Precautions during all future visits and admissions.
- Ensure any health care facilities where the patient is transferred to is notified of their positive CPO status verbally and in writing. The New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) Novel MDRO Transfer Cover Sheet (accessible through the QR code below) can be used to communicate the patient's positive CPO status to the receiving facility.



**SCAN ME**

Contact your Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Department for more information. If the IPC Department needs additional guidance, they should contact NJDOH at [DOH.CDS.HAIAR.EPI@doh.nj.gov](mailto:DOH.CDS.HAIAR.EPI@doh.nj.gov) and notify your local health department, which can be found at [www.nj.gov/health/lh/community/](http://www.nj.gov/health/lh/community/).