

Where can I find more information?

If you would like any further information please speak to a member of your care staff, who may also contact the Infection Prevention Team for you. The Public Health England website is another source of information:

<http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/carbapenem-resistance-guidance-data-and-analysis>

If, after reading this leaflet you have any further questions, please contact your doctor or discharge ward on:

Whiston Hospital
Warrington Road,
Prescot, Merseyside, L35 5DR
Telephone: 0151 426 1600



/sthknhs



@sthk.nhs

www.sthk.nhs.uk

Information for patients fulfilling risk factors for Carbapenemase producing Enterobacterales (CPE)

This leaflet can be made available
in alternative languages / formats on request.

如有需要，本传单可提供其他语言/版式
此單張的其他語言/格式版本可按要求提供

Na żądanie ta ulotka może zostać udostępniona
w innych językach/formatach.

Author: Infection Prevention Team
Department: Infection Prevention
Document Number: STHK0631
Version: 3
Review date: 30 / 11 / 2023

Carbapenemase-producing Enterobacterales: I may be a carrier (or have an infection) – what does this mean?

What does ‘carbapenemase producing Enterobacterales’ or ‘CPE’ mean?

Enterobacterales are bacteria that usually live harmlessly in the gut of humans. This is called ‘colonisation’ (a person is said to be a ‘carrier’). However, if the bacteria get into the wrong place, such as the bladder or bloodstream, they can cause infection. Carbapenems are one of the most powerful types of antibiotics. Carbapenemases are enzymes (chemicals), made by some strains of these bacteria, which allow them to destroy carbapenem antibiotics and so the bacteria are said to be resistant to the antibiotics.

Why does carbapenem resistance matter?

In hospital, carbapenem antibiotics are only be given directly into the bloodstream. Until now, doctors have relied on them to successfully treat certain ‘difficult’ infections when other antibiotics have failed to do so. In a hospital, where there are many vulnerable patients, spread of resistant bacteria can cause problems.

Does carriage of carbapenemase producing Enterobacterales need to be treated?

If a person is a carrier of carbapenemase producing Enterobacterales (sometimes called CPE), they do not need to be treated. These bacteria can live harmlessly in the gut. However, if the bacteria have caused an infection then antibiotics will be required.

Does carriage of carbapenemase producing Enterobacterales need to be treated?

If a person is a carrier of carbapenemase producing Enterobacterales (sometimes called CPE), they do not need to be treated. These bacteria can live harmlessly in the gut. However, if the bacteria have caused an infection then antibiotics will be required.

How will I know if I am at risk of being a carrier or having an infection?

Your doctor or nurse may suspect that you are a carrier if you have been admitted to a hospital abroad or to another hospital in the UK, if you have been in close contact with a carrier of CPE elsewhere or if your samples have been positive for CPE in the past. If any of these reasons apply to you, screening will be arranged for you and you will be accommodated in a single room with your own toilet facilities at least until the results are known.

How will I be screened for carbapenemase producing Enterobacterales?

Screening usually entails taking a rectal swab by inserting it just inside your rectum (bottom). There may be other samples that need to be taken which will be explained to you by your healthcare professional. The sample(s) will be sent to the laboratory and you will normally be informed of the result within two to three days. If the result is negative nothing further is required unless you are staying in hospital for some time. In that case, you will probably be asked to provide a sample on a regular basis e.g. once a week, as a precautionary measure.

What about when I go home?

Whilst there is a chance that you may still be a carrier when you go home quite often this will go away with time. No special measures or treatment are required. You should carry on as normal, maintaining good hand hygiene. If you have any concerns, you may wish to contact your GP for advice.

Before you leave hospital, ask the doctor or nurse to give you a letter or card advising that you have had an infection with or have been a carrier for carbapenemase producing Enterobacterales. This will be useful for the future and it is important that you make health care staff aware of it. Should you or a member of your household be admitted to hospital, you should let the hospital staff know that you are, or have been a carrier and show them the letter or card.