

## What if the screening test is positive?

If the result is positive, ask your doctor or nurse to explain this to you in more detail and to provide a leaflet relating to positive results. You will be nursed in a single room until you leave hospital. No treatment is necessary unless you have an infection, when antibiotics will be given.

## 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:

<https://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:

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## Information for inpatient contacts of 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.

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## Carbapenemase Producing Enterobacterales (or CPE):

**I am a contact of someone who is a carrier or has an infection – what does this mean?**

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

Enterobacteriaceae 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, 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 are carbapenemase producing Enterobacterales spread?**

If a patient in hospital is carrying these bacteria, it can get into the ward environment and can also be passed on by direct contact with that particular patient.

For that reason, the patient will normally be accommodated in a single room. Effective cleaning of the environment and good hand hygiene by all, staff and patients, can significantly reduce the risk of spread.

**Do I need to be screened?**

Occasionally, it is not clear that a patient is carrying these bacteria. Therefore, they may not be placed into a single room straight away.

If you have shared the same environment with a patient who has been found to be carrying carbapenemase producing Enterobacterales you will be offered screening. This screening is offered as there is a *small* chance that you could have picked up the bacteria.

**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.