

Carbapenemase-Producing Organism (CPO) Colonization Screening FAQs and Sample Consent Script

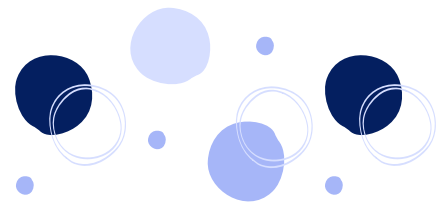
Frequently Asked Questions about Carbapenemase-Producing Organism (CPO) Colonization Screening Tests for Rare Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria that Colonize the Gut or the Skin, such as Carbapenem-Resistant Enterobacteriales (CRE), Carbapenem-Resistant *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (CRPA) and Carbapenem-Resistant *Acinetobacter* (CRAB)

This guide is intended for use by healthcare facilities conducting colonization screening following identification of a patient/resident with a type of bacteria that harbors a resistance gene (e.g., blaNDM, blaVIM, blaIMP, blaOXA-23) that can be easily shared with other bacteria.

Patient Screening

Frequently Asked Questions

(Part 1)



Why have I been contacted?

You have been in contact with this bacteria. Knowing if it may be growing on you or in you may make it easier to treat if you develop symptoms. To make sure this type of resistant bacteria does not spread, we are identifying people who might have had contact with this organism and requesting that these people get a screening test to make sure they are not also carrying the bacteria.

Why is it important for me to be tested for this?

If you become infected with this organism, it helps doctors and nurses treat you more appropriately. It is important for you to be tested for this bacteria so that the healthcare facility can prevent it from spreading. Preventing the spread of these bacteria is very important so that these resistant bacteria don't cause infections in vulnerable patient or become common in your community.

What happens if these bacteria are found in or on me?

The results of the test will be kept confidential to the extent possible. The results will be shared with you and your healthcare providers, as well as the health department. A positive test result indicates the presence of this bacteria in and/or on your body, also referred to as "colonization." Most people who are colonized with this bacteria never get sick from them, so the chances you develop infection from this bacteria is low. However, if you receive medical care, your healthcare providers may take extra steps to protect you from developing an infection and make sure they do not spread the bacteria to other patients.

How can I be tested for this bacteria?

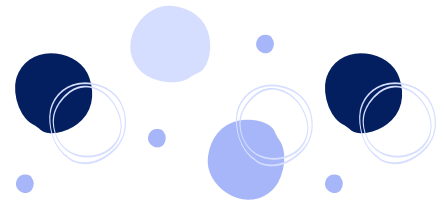
People carry this kind of bacteria in their gut or stool, so the best way to test for these bacteria is to swab your rectum. When you agree to be tested, a healthcare provider will gently insert just the tip of a small, cotton swab into your rectum, gently rotate it, and then remove the swab. The procedure is quick, painless, and with little to no side effects. The swab will be sent to a laboratory and, within a few days, results will be sent to your healthcare provider.

For more information, email
doh.cds.haiar.epi@doh.nj.gov

Patient Screening

Frequently Asked Questions

(Part 2)



Do I have a choice to be tested?

Yes, providing a swab is voluntary, and you can decline testing. However, if you decline testing and you receive medical care, your healthcare providers might take extra precautions, such as wearing a gown and gloves when caring for you, since they will not know if you have this bacteria.

I want to be tested, but I am not comfortable having a rectal swab collected. Is there an alternative test?

We can provide you the swab so that you may swab a few times around your anus, or you can provide a stool sample, but these alternative tests may decrease our ability to find these bacteria in your body if they are present.

If my test is positive, what will I need to do?

The risk of spreading this organism to your family, friends, and neighbors is very low, but family and visitors should wash their hands well after caring for you or visiting you to decrease the chance of getting the bacteria. You should also wash your hands frequently, especially after using the bathroom and before eating or preparing food. If you receive medical care at a healthcare facility such as a hospital or nursing home, be sure to let your healthcare providers know about the results so that they can take steps to prevent spreading the germ to others.

If my test is positive, will I need treatment?

If the test is positive, it means you are carrying the germs in your gut. Since they are not making you sick (causing infection), you will not need antibiotics. Many people stop carrying these bacteria over time, but this depends on many factors. Taking antibiotics can increase the time these germs are in your gut. So, in consultation with your doctor, antibiotics should be used appropriately and should be taken as prescribed.

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Example verbal consent for collection of rectal swab to assess CRAB colonization



Hi, my name is [insert name] and I work for [insert organization]. I'm here to talk to you about some screening the [insert healthcare facility e.g., hospital or nursing home] is doing to check for a rare germ. Recently, we identified this germ in a patient who was cared for at this facility. The germ is called carbapenem-resistant *Acinetobacter baumannii*, or "CRAB" for short.

We are screening patients for this germ because some people can carry this germ in the gut and on the skin without knowing it and they can spread the germ to others without knowing it.

The chance that you carry this germ is very low, and fortunately, most people who do carry it never get sick from it. But to make sure this germ has not spread, we would like to screen patients to make sure they don't have it.

If you agree to be screened, the process is very simple and takes just a few seconds. We would need to swab inside your rectum. To do that, we would gently insert just the tip of a soft swab, which looks like a Q-tip, into your rectum, gently rotate it, and then remove it. The process is not painful and there shouldn't be any side effects. If you're not comfortable with us doing this, you can use the swab yourself to gently wipe a few times around your anus. The downside to swabbing yourself is that it may decrease our ability to find the bacteria than if we collect it.

The swab will be sent to a lab to test for the bacteria, which will take a few days. If they find the germ, someone will contact you to discuss what to do. The results of the test will be kept confidential to the extent allowed by law.

Providing a swab is completely voluntary and you can choose not to.

Do you have any questions? [pause for questions]

Is it OK if we collect the swab?



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Example verbal consent for collection of rectal swab to assess CRE colonization



Hi, my name is [insert name] and I work for [insert organization]. I'm here to talk to you about some screening the [insert healthcare facility e.g., hospital or nursing home] is doing to check for a rare germ. Recently, we identified this germ in a patient who was cared for at this facility. The germ is called carbapenem-resistant Enterobacterales, or "CRE" for short.

We are screening patients for this germ because some people can carry this germ in the gut without knowing it and they can spread the germ to others without knowing it.

The chance that you carry this germ is very low, and fortunately, most people who do carry it never get sick from it. But to make sure this germ has not spread, we would like to screen patients to make sure they don't have it.

If you agree to be screened, the process is very simple and takes just a few seconds. We would need to swab inside your rectum. To do that, we would gently insert just the tip of a soft swab, which looks like a Q-tip, into your rectum, gently rotate it, and then remove it. The process is not painful and there shouldn't be any side effects. If you're not comfortable with us doing this, you can use the swab yourself to gently wipe a few times around your anus. The downside to swabbing yourself is that it may decrease our ability to find the bacteria than if we collect it.

The swab will be sent to a lab to test for the bacteria, which will take a few days. If they find the germ, someone will contact you to discuss what to do. The results of the test will be kept confidential to the extent allowed by law.

Providing a swab is completely voluntary and you can choose not to.

Do you have any questions? [pause for questions]

Is it OK if we collect the swab?



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Example verbal consent for collection of rectal swab to assess CRPA colonization



Hi, my name is [insert name] and I work for [insert organization]. I'm here to talk to you about some screening the [insert healthcare facility e.g., hospital or nursing home] is doing to check for a rare germ. Recently, we identified this germ in a patient who was cared for at this facility. The germ is called carbapenem-resistant *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, or "CRPA" for short.

We are screening patients for this germ because some people can carry this germ in the respiratory tract and gut without knowing it, and they can spread the germ to others without knowing it.

The chance that you carry this germ is very low, and fortunately, most people who do carry it never get sick from it. But to make sure this germ has not spread, we would like to screen patients to make sure they don't have it.

If you agree to be screened, the process is very simple and takes just a few seconds. We would need to swab inside your rectum. To do that, we would gently insert just the tip of a soft swab, which looks like a Q-tip, into your rectum, gently rotate it, and then remove it. The process is not painful and there shouldn't be any side effects. If you're not comfortable with us doing this, you can use the swab yourself to gently wipe a few times around your anus. The downside to swabbing yourself is that it may decrease our ability to find the bacteria than if we collect it.

The swab will be sent to a lab to test for the bacteria, which will take a few days. If they find the germ, someone will contact you to discuss what to do. The results of the test will be kept confidential to the extent allowed by law.

Providing a swab is completely voluntary and you can choose not to.

Do you have any questions? [pause for questions]

Is it OK if we collect the swab?



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