Infection Control Micro-Learns User Guide

ABOUT THE MICRO-LEARNS

The Project Firstline Infection Control Micro-Learns are a series of guided infection control discussions that provide brief, on-the-job educational opportunities. Each micro-learn focuses on a single infection control topic and connects infection control concepts to immediate, practical value. Health care workers can easily apply the key points to their daily work and perform the recommended actions to keep germs from spreading.

USING THE MICRO-LEARNS

The micro-learns can be incorporated into existing opportunities where groups of health care workers gather, such as pre-shift “huddles” or team meetings. The sessions should be led or facilitated by an experienced team member with infection control expertise.

Each micro-learn package includes:

- **An adaptable discussion guide for the facilitator:** The discussion guide is not a script. Facilitators are encouraged to adapt the guide for their audience by including relevant and practical questions and ideas.
- **A job aid for the facilitator:** The visual job aid helps to reinforce the key messages of the micro-learn. Facilitators are encouraged to make the job aid available after the micro-learn session, such as in digital or hard copy form.

Notes for Facilitators

- Before presenting a micro-learn, check the policies and protocols at your facility and adapt the content accordingly.
- Build on your knowledge, experience, and awareness to connect the content to local context or relevant recent events so your audience can apply the concepts confidently.
- The micro-learns reinforce infection control concepts when risks are observed in patients or in the patient environment, not necessarily in visitors or other staff members.

Carbapenem-Resistant *Acinetobacter baumannii* (CRAB) Micro-Learn Discussion Guide

Use the talking points below and accompanying job aid to engage your team in short, focused discussion. Adapt to meet your needs.

INTRODUCE THE TOPIC

Share information about the topic that your audience should know:

- CRAB can cause infections in the blood, urinary tract, lungs or wounds.
- CRAB has the potential to spread rapidly in healthcare settings and is frequently associated with outbreaks.
- It is usually transmitted from person to person, often via the hands of healthcare personnel or on contaminated shared medical equipment.
- CRAB primarily colonizes the skin, wounds, and/or the respiratory tract, but can colonize other body sites (e.g., digestive tract).
- Patients may remain colonized with CRAB indefinitely.
- **Colonization -** patients can carry CRAB on and in their body and do not show signs or symptoms of illness or infection.

EXPAND THE TOPIC

Share additional information about what your audience should know on the job:

- In New Jersey, the majority of CRAB are carbapenemase producing (CP).
- Without effective cleaning and disinfection, CRAB can persist in the environment and on medical equipment for days to weeks.
- Infections caused by CRAB don't respond to common antibiotics and some CRAB are resistant to all available antibiotics.
- **Resistant -** means the germs are not killed by the medication and the infection continues.
- To prevent CRAB transmission in healthcare settings remember to:
  - Follow proper hand hygiene protocols
  - Adhere to proper transmission-based precautions
  - Thoroughly clean and disinfect patient room and equipment
  - Communicate prevention methods to staff, patient, visitors and during patient transfers

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DISCUSS WITH YOUR TEAM

Find out how your audience feels about the topic:

- Are you familiar with the transmission-based precautions required for a patient with CRAB colonization or infection?
- Do you know what specific cleaning product in your facility is effective against CRAB?
- Can you list a few ways CRAB can spread in your facility?
- Do you understand why CRAB is a threat in healthcare facilities?
- What ways can you prevent the spread of CRAB?

WRAP UP AND REINFORCE

Reinforce key takeaways:

- It is unusual for healthy individuals to get infected with CRAB.
- CRAB can spread to the patient care environment and health care providers' hands.
- CRAB survives for extended periods on wet and dry surfaces.
- Proper hand hygiene and appropriate use of gowns and gloves can help reduce infection risk.
- Hospital patients and long-term care facility residents, especially those who receive complex medical care, including intensive care unit admission or having invasive devices, have severe or chronic wounds, have recently taken antibiotics or were admitted to the same room or unit as a person colonized or infected with CRAB are at higher risk for infection.
- Remember to thoroughly clean and disinfect any shared or reusable equipment.
- Ensure that an appropriate sign is present on the patient's door to alert healthcare personnel and visitors of recommended precautions.

NJHealth New Jersey Department of Health

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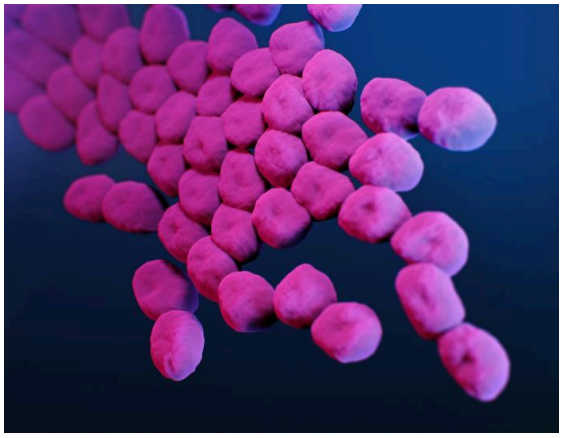

Acinetobacter is a group of bacteria (germs) commonly found in the environment, like in soil, dust and water.

How Does it Spread?

Directly and indirectly through contaminated surfaces, objects, and/or medical equipment in healthcare facilities:

- Doorknobs, bedrails
- Blood pressure cuffs
- Glucometers
- Nursing carts / crash carts
- Missed hand hygiene moments
- Inappropriate use or not wearing PPE when indicated

Patient Risk Factors

Hospital patients and long-term care facility residents that are at risk:

- Receive complex medical care
- Have invasive devices
- Have severe or chronic wounds
- Have recently taken antibiotics
- Were admitted to the same room or unit as a person colonized or infected with CRAB

Colonization

People can have CRAB on their skin, respiratory and gastrointestinal tracts as well as and other body sites without having symptoms. Healthcare providers refer to this as '**colonization**.'

People who are colonized can spread CRAB onto to surfaces and objects around them and to other patients.

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Infection Control Practices for Reducing CRAB in Healthcare Settings

Healthcare workers should always practice proper hand hygiene

Patient care environment should be properly cleaned using EPA-registered one-step hospital-grade disinfectants

Use transmission-based precautions for suspected or confirmed infections

Clean all mobile and reusable equipment after patient use

Ensure timely identification of patients infected or colonized with CRAB

Family members and patients should be encouraged to perform hand hygiene often

Patients should be cohorted according to facility policy and procedure

Provide ongoing education and observation-based audits