

CRE AND YOUR PATIENTS



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
VETERINARY MEDICAL CENTER

Information for veterinarians on CRE in patients and in clinics

WHAT IS CRE?

Carbapenem-resistant Enterobacterales (CRE) are a group of bacteria that have acquired resistance to all beta-lactam antibiotics including the carbapenems, and are often resistant to other drugs; therefore, infections caused by CRE are very difficult to treat. CRE can be carried in the normal microbiota of healthy colonized animals or people. Infections caused by CRE are of high risk for both animals and humans, particularly those with serious comorbidities. The CDC has classified CRE as an urgent public health threat. Infections caused by CRE are reportable to public health offices in most US states.

HOW CAN I TEST AN ANIMAL FOR CRE?

CRE infections are identified using traditional bacterial culture methods and antimicrobial susceptibility testing. Contact your veterinary diagnostic laboratory to determine where and how to send your sample.

HOW IS CRE TRANSMITTED?

CRE are transmitted through direct and indirect contact. Patient to patient transmission is usually caused by contaminated hands or equipment. The frequency of transmission from animals to people is unknown, but it can occur.

WHAT CAN I DO FOR MY CLIENTS?

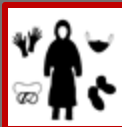
Provide your clients who have CRE positive pets with appropriate resources (see below). Educate yourself on CRE and encourage your clients to use proper hand hygiene after interacting with their animals. Advise immunocompromised clients to consult with their physician.

The clinicians at OSU VMC, along with members of the Antimicrobial Stewardship Program, are here to assist you in managing your patient's CRE infection

HOW CAN I PROTECT MY OTHER PATIENTS AND MY CLINIC?



Proper hand hygiene is the #1 way to prevent CRE spread. Perform hand hygiene before and after patient contact



Use of proper PPE, including gloves, gowns and over boots



Optimize antimicrobial use to achieve the most effective therapeutic results



Isolation of infected and severely ill patients



Evaluate and improve routine cleaning and disinfection



WANT MORE INFORMATION?

CRE information for Veterinarians from the CDC:

CRE information for Veterinarians from UPenn:



<https://www.cdc.gov/hai/organisms/cre/FAQ-Vets.html>



<https://www.vet.upenn.edu/veterinary-hospitals/ryan-veterinary-hospital/services/diagnostic-laboratories/create>



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