

WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION?

If you would like further information please speak to a member of your care staff, who may also contact the Infection Prevention and Control Team for you.

(See back page)

The Infection Prevention and Control Team may be contacted on 01905 733092 (Worcestershire Royal Hospital) or 01527 512185 (Alexandra Hospital).

PATIENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

It is important that you speak to the department you have been referred to if you have any questions (for example, about medication) before your investigation or procedure.

If you are unhappy about the service you have received and would like to talk about it or make a formal complaint, please contact Patient Advice and Liaison Service on 0300 123 1732.

If you have a complaint and you want it to be investigated, you should write direct to the Chief Executive at Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust, Charles Hastings Way, Worcester WR5 1DD or contact the Patient Services Department for advice.

If you would like this information in other formats or languages please call 01905 760453 or email: communications@worcsacute.nhs.uk.

www.worcsacute.nhs.uk

CPE (Carbapenemase- producing Enterobacteriaceae)

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

PATIENT INFORMATION

I AM COLONISED – WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

WHAT DOES 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, 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?

Carbapenem antibiotics can only be given in hospital 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 CPE NEED TO BE TREATED?

If a person is a carrier of CPE, they do not need to be treated. However, if the bacteria have caused an infection then antibiotics will be required.

HOW IS CPE SPREAD?

If a patient in hospital is carrying this bacterium 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 environmental cleaning and good hand hygiene by all, staff and patients, can reduce the risk of spread significantly.

DO I NEED TO BE SCREENED?

Occasionally, it isn't immediately known that a patient is carrying these bacteria and so they may not be placed into a single room straight away. Screening will be offered if you have shared the same bay (or ward) with a patient who has been found to be carrying CPE. This screening is offered as there is a slight chance that you could have picked up these bacteria and are carrying them too.

HOW WILL I BE SCREENED FOR CPE?

Screening usually entails taking a rectal swab by inserting it briefly just inside your rectum (bottom). Alternatively you may be asked to provide a sample of faeces. The swab / sample will be sent to the laboratory and you will normally be informed of the results within two or 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 IF THE RESULT IS POSITIVE?

If the result is positive do 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 given a single room until you leave hospital. No treatment is necessary unless you have an infection when antibiotics will be given.