



Carbapenem-resistant *Enterobacterales* Information for Veterinarians



My small animal patient has been diagnosed with a CRE, now what?

What is carbapenem-resistant *Enterobacterales* (CRE)?

- CRE is a type of bacteria (e.g., *E. coli*, *Klebsiella*) that are resistant to drugs such as imipenem and meropenem as well as many other antimicrobials.
- Isolating CRE has public health implications because CRE can cause severe infections that are difficult to treat in both pets and people.

Where did my patient get this bacteria?

- *Enterobacterales* and CRE can colonize the GI and urogenital tracts of healthy people and pets.
- In pets, infections typically occur when CRE spreads to the lungs, urinary tract or wounds.
- CRE can be spread by contaminated hands or through bodily fluids, feces, contaminated surfaces, or equipment.

Is there risk to my staff and other patients?

- It is possible to share CRE between pets and people, but the risk is believed to be low.
- Immunosuppressed veterinary staff and patients should avoid contact with CRE patients when possible.
- Everyone can reduce spread by washing hands.
- Anyone concerned about CRE exposure or illness should consult their healthcare provider.

How can we treat my patient?

- Do **NOT** screen healthy pets for CRE. Do **NOT** treat colonized pets with no clinical signs; you cannot decolonize a pet.
- CRE infections can be challenging to treat; consult with a pharmacologist, microbiologist, or infectious disease specialist as needed.
- Remove any implants, and drain and clean wounds.
- Consider topical antiseptics/antimicrobials for skin or wound infections.

General precautions

- Isolate hospitalized CRE patients, minimize staff caring for them, and wash hands after contact
- Have CRE patients urinate/defecate in a separate area, and disinfect area frequently.
- Wear gloves, gowns, and masks when handling a CRE patient, cleaning wounds, changing bandages, or handling bodily fluids
- Be careful to not cross-contaminate hospital surfaces and equipment with CRE.
- Follow manufacturer guidelines closely for all disinfectants (e.g., dilution, storage, contact time).

Where can I find more information?

- Kansas State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (785) 532-5650 <http://www.ksvdl.org/>
- MU Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (573) 882-8367 <https://vmdl.missouri.edu/>
- CDC FAQs about CRE for Veterinarians <https://www.cdc.gov/hai/organisms/cre/FAQ-Vets.html>
- [PennVet CREATE](#) CRE Plan and Response Resource