

## Infection prevention and control

# Information for patients about carbapenemase-producing enterobacteriaceae (CPE) screening

### What are carbapenemase-producing enterobacteriaceae?

Enterobacteriaceae are bacteria that usually live harmlessly in the gut of humans. 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 (proteins) made by some strains of these bacteria which allow them to destroy carbapenem antibiotics. In this case, the bacteria are said to be resistant to the antibiotics.

If you need information in a different format, such as easy read, large print, BSL, braille, email, SMS text or other communication support, please tell your ward or clinic nurse.

We try to ensure that all our information given to patients is accurate, balanced and based on the most up-to-date scientific evidence. If you would like to have details about the sources used please contact [patient.information@christie.nhs.uk](mailto:patient.information@christie.nhs.uk)

For information and advice visit the cancer information centres at Withington, Oldham or Salford. Opening times can vary, please check before making a special journey.



Contact The Christie Hotline for  
urgent support and specialist advice  
**The Christie Hotline: 0161 446 3658**  
Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week



## Testing for CPE

People with a diagnosis of cancer are very vulnerable to infection and therefore all patients admitted to The Christie are assessed to see if they are at risk of having CPE. This is so we can identify patients who may be carrying this germ, and how we can lessen the risk of the germ developing into an infection at a later date.

All patients coming in for admission, who in the previous 12 months meet any the criteria below will be screened on or prior to admission.

- Have been an inpatient in a hospital abroad.
- Have been in any of the following hospitals: Central Manchester, South Manchester, Wirral University Hospital, Royal Liverpool, Broadgreen, any London Hospital or Leeds liver unit.
- Or if you have had close contact with another person known to be CPE positive.

All patients on the haematology unit will be screened on admission.

## How will I be tested for CPE?

CPE is colonised in the gut, therefore the best way to test for CPE is by a rectal swab. A swab is inserted gently, just inside the rectum. Results are usually available the same day.

## What happens if CPE is found?

When a patient in hospital is found to be 'colonised' or carrying CPE they will be informed by the nurse looking after them. They are then placed in a single room with their own hand-washing facilities and medical equipment. Any contacts (other patients close to your locality whilst you have been on the ward) will also require screening. This may be the reason you have been informed that you require screening. The doctors and nurses will wear gloves, long sleeve gowns or aprons whilst carrying out any care and wash their hands thoroughly before and after any contact. **Please see the separate leaflet 'CPE' for more information.**

## How is CPE spread?

It is usually spread by human contact and by (invisible) particles on equipment and furniture, but it is most easily transferred by hands.

## Will CPE affect visitors, family and friends?

CPE is not a risk to healthy people and so we encourage patients to have visitors. Visitors should wash their hands carefully before leaving the room. Staff will advise them not to visit other patients on the ward whilst visiting you. Visitors do not need to wear gloves and aprons.

## Who can I talk to about CPE?

The Infection prevention and control team will answer any questions and give further advice. You can contact them on the telephone number below.

## Infection prevention and control team

Tel: 0161 446 3731