

What are some things hospitals are doing to prevent CP-CRE infections?

To prevent the spread of CP-CRE, healthcare personnel and facilities can follow infection-control precautions provided by CDC. These include:

- Washing hands with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer before and after caring for a patient
- Carefully cleaning and disinfecting rooms and medical equipment
- Wearing gloves and a gown before entering the room of a CP-CRE patient
- Keeping patients with CP-CRE infections in a single room or sharing a room with someone else who has a CRE infection
- Whenever possible, dedicating equipment and staff to CP-CRE patients
- Removing gloves and gown and washing hands before leaving the room of a CP-CRE patient
- Prescribing antibiotics only when necessary
- Removing temporary medical devices as soon as possible
- Testing patients for bacteria to identify them early to help prevent them from being passed on to other patients

What can patients do to prevent CP-CRE infections?

Patients should:

- Tell your doctor if you have been hospitalized in another facility or country
- Take antibiotics only as prescribed
- Expect all doctors, nurses, and other healthcare providers wash their hands with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub before and after touching your body or tubes going into your body. If they do not, ask them to do so.
- Clean your own hands often, especially:
 - Before preparing or eating food
 - Before and after changing wound dressings or bandages
 - After using the bathroom
 - After blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing
- Ask questions. Understand what is being done to you, the risks and benefits.

What if I have CP-CRE?

Follow your healthcare provider's instructions. If your provider prescribes you antibiotics, take them exactly as instructed and finish the full course, even if you feel better. Wash your hands, especially after you have contact with the infected area and after using the bathroom. Follow any other hygiene advice your provider gives you.

I am caring for someone with CP-CRE at home; do I need to take special precautions?

CRE have primarily been a problem among people with underlying medical problems, especially those with medical devices like urinary catheters or those with chronic wounds. Otherwise healthy people are at lower risk for problems with CRE. People providing care at home for patients with CP-CRE should be careful about washing their hands, especially after contact with wounds or helping the CP-CRE patient to use the bathroom or after cleaning up stool. Caregivers should also make sure to wash their hands before and after handling the patient's medical device (e.g., urinary catheters). This is particularly important if the caregiver is caring for more than one ill person at home. In addition, gloves should be used when anticipating contact with body fluids or blood.

Is CP-CRE infection related to medical care abroad?

A variety of enzymes produced by *Enterobacteriaceae* make them resistant to carbapenems. Several of these enzymes appear to be more common in other countries than they are in the United States. As with medical care in the United States, medical care

abroad can be associated with healthcare-associated infections and/or resistant bacteria.
[Learn about those risks and how to minimize them.](#)