

Date: December 7, 2015
To: North Zone
Physicians, Nurse Managers, Educators and Practitioners, Laboratory Director and Managers
From: AHS Laboratory Services
Re: Carbapenem Resistant Organism Screening in North Zone

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Messages:

- Effective Immediately, North Zone Infection Prevention and Control (IP&C) has confirmed that the specimen of choice for the screening of patients for Carbapenem Resistant Organisms according to the Antibiotic Resistant Organism (ARO) Admission & Preadmission Screening Tool is:

A stool specimen in enteric media culture OR if a stool specimen cannot be collected, a rectal swab with visible stool on it.

Background

- Carbapenem Resistant Organisms are bacteria that have developed high levels of resistance to antibiotics, including antibiotics called Carbapenems. Patients that are being admitted to a health care facility that may be colonized or infected with CRO should be placed on Contact Precautions until the screen has been confirmed as negative.
- Laboratory staff will proceed with Referred-Out Testing process and refer to Dyna**LIFEDX**

Why this is important:

To confirm the desired specimen type for this screening test

- The specific criteria for Carbapenem Resistant Organisms is as follows:

*In the past 6 months, has the patient had a stay in a healthcare facility **OUTSIDE** of Canada > 24 hours?
OR Has the patient received hemodialysis **OUTSIDE** of Canada?*

Action Required:

- IP&C will receive approval to order test from Microbiologist at Dyna**LIFEDX**
- Rectal swabs collected from patients being screened for CRO will be ordered in Meditech as "CRORO"
- Laboratory staff will proceed with Referred-Out Testing process and refer to Dyna**LIFEDX**

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

- Kimberly Miller, IP&C NZ Clinical Practice Coordinator (780) 520-2214
kimberly.a.miller@albertahealthservices.ca
- Wanda June, North Area Laboratory Manager (780) 523-6440 ex 6505
wanda.june@albertahealthservices.ca

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

Dr. Mireille Kattar, Acting Deputy Zone Clinical Department Head, Diagnostic Health – Laboratory & Pathology, North Zone