

**Date:** January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
**To:** Central Zone  
Physicians, Nurse Managers, Educators and Practitioners, Laboratory Director and Managers  
**From:** AHS Laboratory Services  
**Re:** Carbapenemase Producing Organisms (CPO) Screening in Central Zone

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## PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

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### Key Messages:

- Effective Immediately, Central Zone Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) has confirmed that the specimen of choice for the screening of patients for **Carbapenemase Producing Organisms (CPO)** according to the Antibiotic Resistant Organism (ARO) Adult Admission & Preadmission Screening tool (form 18931) is:

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

### Background:

- Carbapenemase Producing Organisms** are bacteria that have developed high levels of resistance to antibiotics, including Carbapenems. Patients that are admitted to a health care facility who meet criteria for increased risk of colonization or infection with CPO 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**LIFE**<sub>DX</sub>

### Why this is important:

#### To confirm the desired specimen type for this screening test

- The specific criteria for CPO testing 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:

- IPC will receive approval to order the test from a Microbiologist at Dyna**LIFE**<sub>DX</sub>
- Stool or rectal swabs collected from patients screened for CPO will be ordered in Meditech as CRORO
- Laboratory staff will proceed with Referred-Out Testing process and refer to Dyna**LIFE**<sub>DX</sub>

### Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

- Debra Doe, IPC Director, Central Zone (403) 348-8816
- Dr. Robert Rennie, Clinical Microbiologist consultant (780) 904-3293

### This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

Dr. Garnet Horne, Central Zone Clinical Department Head, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine