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**Date:** August 11, 2015

**To:** Physicians and Nurses at the University of Alberta Hospital, Edmonton

**From:** Provincial Laboratory for Public Health (ProvLab)

**Re:** Screening for CPO (Carbapenemase Producing Organisms; Previously Referred to as CRE – Carbapenemase Resistant Enterobacteriaceae)

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**Key Messages:**

- Only rectal swabs and feces are acceptable specimens for CPO screening.
- Only **one** CPO screen per patient per week will be processed.
- CPO screening has to be approved by an Infection Control Nurse (ICN) prior to specimen collection.

**Why this is important:**

- If the above criteria are not met, the CPO screen request will not be processed.

**Action Required:**

- Consult the UAH Infection Control CPO screening criteria
- Consult an ICN prior to taking the specimens.

**Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:**

- Dr. Prenilla Naidu, Program Leader, ProvLab at: 780-407-7242 or email: [Prenilla.Naidu2@albertahealthservices.ca](mailto:Prenilla.Naidu2@albertahealthservices.ca)

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

Dr. Marie Louie, Associate Medical Director, Provincial Laboratory for Public Health, on behalf of the Medical/Scientific Director, Dr. Graham Tipples.