

**Date:** June 19, 2014  
**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

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### Key Messages:

- Effective May 2014, North Zone Infection Prevention and Control (IP&C) implemented a new Antibiotic Resistant Organism (ARO) Admission & Preadmission Screening Tool to include screening patients for Carbapenem Resistant Organisms
  - 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**LIFE**DX

### Why this is important:

- 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**LIFE**DX
- 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**LIFE**DX

### Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

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

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**Note: Headings may vary depending on the content of the message**