

Carbapenem-Resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE)

What is Carbapenem-Resistant Enterobacteriaceae?

Carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE) are groups of germs that commonly cause infections in healthcare facilities. CRE's are difficult to treat because they do not respond to antibiotics that are typically used to treat infections. The most common CRE are *Escherichia coli*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, and *Imipenem-hydrolyzing beta-lactamase* (bacterial).

What are the signs and symptoms?

Symptoms of CRE infections vary and will depend on the type of bacteria involved as well as what part of the body is infected. Symptoms may include:

- Fever
- Chills
- Fatigue
- Urinary Tract Infections (UTIs)
- Pneumonia
- Bloodstream infections
- Meningitis

How does it spread?

CRE is typically spread through person-to-person contact with infected individuals, particularly contact with wounds or stool. The risk of exposure to CRE is highest in hospitals and long-term facilities, and other places where medical devices, equipment, and surfaces that have not been properly cleaned.

How is it treated?

Antibiotics are used if the bacteria is not yet resistant to all antibiotics. If the antibiotics are effective, the doctor may recommend treatments that relieve the symptoms.

Prevention:

- Healthcare workers/providers administering treatment should maintain good hygiene practices.
- Thoroughly washing hands and all medical equipment may help prevent CRE transmission.

For more information:

Visit the CDC here: [CRE - CDC Resource](#)



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