



Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services  
**HEALTH ALERT NETWORK**  
**Update**



TO: Nebraska Healthcare Providers, Infection Preventionists, Laboratories, Public Health, Directors of Nursing, Hospital and Long Term Care Administrators

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RE: Cluster of NDM Type Carbapenemase Producing CRE in the Lincoln Area

DATE: July 3, 2019

This notice is a follow up to the HAN sent on June 13 regarding an increase in the incidence of highly resistant microorganisms of the CP-CRE type. In addition to the overall statewide increase in incidence of CRE, there has been an evolving cluster of such organisms in the Lincoln area. Since the June 13 HAN, public health and facility-based infection control professionals have continued to study this situation. Currently we have identified a cluster of patients with *Klebsiella pneumoniae* carrying an NDM carbapenemase, limited to the Lincoln area. However, as evidence of the frequent inter-facility movement of patients, at least 5 different facilities in the Lincoln area are involved in the current cluster.

This current communication is intended to highlight the absolute need, in cases of inter-facility patient transfer, for communication regarding carriage of a multi-drug resistant organism (MDRO). This is necessary to ensure that the infection control precautions required to prevent spread at the receiving facility are instituted in a timely manner.

Because of the importance of containment in preventing further spread of this highly resistant NDM CRE we are requesting that you inform any healthcare worker who has contact with patients or is involved in the acceptance or transfer of patients to be educated and held accountable for communicating infection control risk information to the receiving facility. It is critical that infection control personnel and care givers at the receiving facility are made aware of the presence of this organism and the need for contact precautions. In addition to verbal communication from sending to receiving facility, an additional tool to ensure that the receiving facility is aware of the need for enhanced infection control is to attach to the front of the chart (transfer papers) the simplified infection control transfer form located on the DHHS HAI website:

<http://dhhs.ne.gov/HAI%20Documents/Interfacility%20Infection%20Control%20Transfer%20Form.pdf>

Please inform your care providers that the DHHS HAI website has information on CP-CREs for HCWs as well as patients:

<http://dhhs.ne.gov/pages/Healthcare-Associated-Infections.aspx>

In addition, our public health staff welcome questions and inquiries about this issue:

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