



Via Email

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To Provincial Laboratory Directors:
(see attached Distribution List)

The emergence of carbapenemase producing organisms (CPO) is an infectious disease concern of which the epidemiology and control is little known in British Columbia (BC). A surveillance protocol focusing on acute care facilities in BC was developed in 2014 by a multidisciplinary group with representatives from each health authority and related agencies in the province at the request of the Director of Patient Safety, BC Ministry of Health.

The objectives of this CPO Surveillance are threefold:

- a. To identify and monitor CPOs among patients admitted to acute care facilities and other identified patient population in BC, such as patients receiving haemodialysis in renal clinics
- b. To examine the epidemiology of patients who are infected or colonized with CPO and the molecular profile of these emerging organisms
- c. To synthesize all epidemiologic and laboratory information to inform patient care practices in the management of patients with these organisms in BC

Given the emerging nature of this infectious disease concern a request was made to include CPO as a reportable condition under the *Public Health Act*. We undertook a review of the issue with the provincial Communicable Disease Policy Advisory Committee and confirm that CPO are reportable, pursuant to the *Health Act* Communicable Disease Regulation section 2 (b) and definitions as follows:

Interpretation

1. In this regulation:

"communicable disease" means an illness, due to a specific infectious agent or its toxic products, which arises through the transmission of that agent or its product

- (a) directly from an infected person or animal, or
- (b) indirectly through the agency of an intermediate host vector or the inanimate environment;

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"epidemic" means an occurrence of a disease within a community or region in excess of normal expectancy;

"infectious agent" means an organism capable of producing an infection or infectious disease;

"reportable communicable disease" means a disease

- (a) listed in Schedule A or B, or
- (b) which becomes epidemic or shows unusual features;

Reportable disease

2. (2) Where a physician knows or suspects that an animal or another person is suffering from or has died from a communicable disease, he shall, without delay and in accordance with section 4, make a report to the medical health officer if the disease

- (a) is listed in Schedule A, or
- (b) becomes epidemic or shows unusual features.

Please note that physicians/administrators responsible for laboratories that test for CPO are also required to report cases of CPO to their local medical health officer per this section [2 (2)].

Sincerely,



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