

Appendix F – Letter to Ordering Provider in Response to CPO Cases Identified in the Community

Date:

Dear *Health Care Provider (ordering provider)*,

Re: *Patient Last name, First name; PHN; DOB*

Public Health has received laboratory notification that your patient tested positive for a carbapenemase-producing organism (CPO) - an emerging public health concern. As per the Public Health Act and the Communicable Disease Regulation, physicians/administrators for laboratories that identify CPO are required to report cases to their local medical health officer.

A provincial non-nominal surveillance program is in place to monitor the epidemiology (e.g. risk factors, laboratory data) of CPO in BC. Each patient isolate is assigned a unique identifier for this purpose. The unique identifier for your patient is _____. Attached is a surveillance form. We ask that you complete this form to the best of your ability and return it by email to the Provincial Infection Control Network of BC at picnet@phsa.ca (cc Katherine.Sunderland@phsa.ca).

CPOs are multi-drug resistant gram negative bacteria that pose significant risk to vulnerable patients in healthcare facilities, as the antibiotics available to treat infections are very limited. Due to this risk, please request that your patient inform any healthcare facility on admission and/or routine healthcare encounters (such as hemodialysis, oncology clinics, BMT day care) that they have tested positive for CPO. Infection Control measures will be put in place to decrease the likelihood of spreading these bacteria to other patients.

At this time, little is known about the carriage and clearance of CPO infections in the community after treatment. Follow-up testing of clearance is not recommended, as carriage may return after treatment with a carbapenem antibiotic.

Interpretation of this laboratory result should be in context of the overall health of your patient. In the community, patients who test positive for a CPO do not generally pose a risk to others. Patients should be advised to maintain good personal hygiene and avoid sharing personal items to prevent spread to others. Added precautions are NOT required in the community office setting.

Attached is a patient information sheet for your patient (CPO Health file). Further information on CPO is available at [BCCDC website](#).