

# Carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE): Coming to a hospital near you?

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- What's the problem?
- A brief overview of CRE microbiology and epidemiology
- Sizing the threat
- Infection prevention and control challenges and strategies
- Your questions

THE END OF  
ANTIBIOTICS IS NIGH

# What's the problem?



*“CRE are nightmare bacteria.”*

*Dr Tom Frieden, CDC Director*



*“If we don't take action, then we may all be back in an almost 19th Century environment where infections kill us as a result of routine operations.”*

*Dame Sally Davies, Chief Medical Officer*



*“If we fail to act, we are looking at an almost unthinkable scenario where antibiotics no longer work and we are cast back into the dark ages of medicine where treatable infections and injuries will kill once again.”*

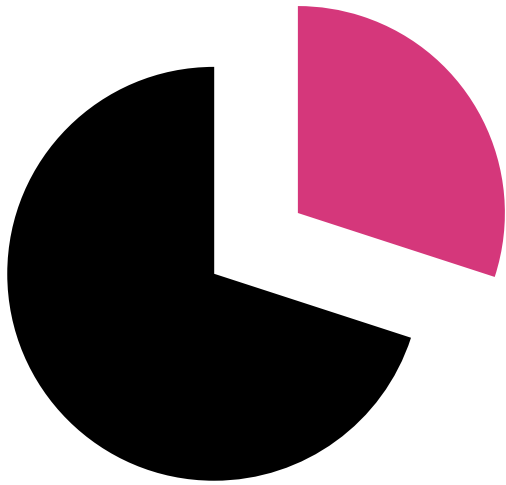
*David Cameron, Prime Minister, UK*



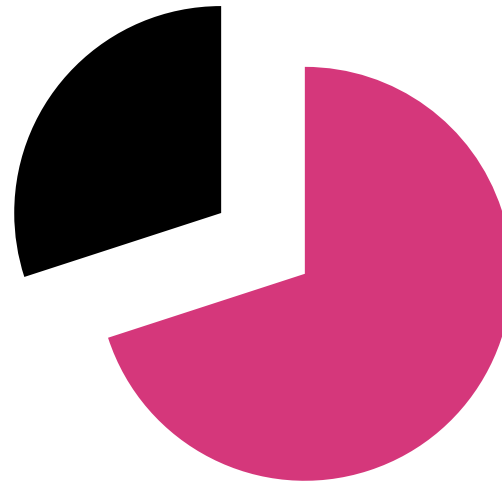
*“The rise of antibiotic-resistant bacteria, however, represents a serious threat to public health and the economy.”*

*Barack Obama, President USA*

# Rising threat from MDR-GNR



% of all HAI caused by GNRs.



% of ICU HAI caused by GNRs.

Non-fermenters	<i>Acinetobacter baumannii</i> <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> <i>Stenotrophomonas maltophilia</i>
Enterobacteriaceae	<i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i> <i>Escherichia coli</i> <i>Enterobacter cloacae</i>

# What's the problem? Resistance

	30 Jun 2014 00:00	BC - Blood culture	AICU - AICU <input type="text"/>	<div>CNS - Coagulase Negative Staphylococcus</div> <div>GPC - Unidentified Gram positive coccus</div> <div>SE - Staphylococcus epidermidis</div>	⌵
	30 Jun 2014 00:00	ASC - Ascitic fluid	AICU - AICU <input type="text"/>	KP - Klebsiella pneumoniae	⬆
		<b>Organism</b>			
		KP - Klebsiella pneumoniae			
				AK - Amikacin	R
				AMP - Ampicillin	R
				AUG - Augmentin	R
				CAZ - Ceftazidime	R
				COL - Colistin	R
				CP - Ciprofloxacin	R
				CPD - Cefpodoxime	R
				CXM - Cefuroxime	R
				ERT - Ertapenem	R
				GEN - Gentamicin	R
				MER - Meropenem	R
				TAZ - Pip/Tazobactam	R
				TGC - Tigecycline	R
				TRI - Trimethoprim	R

# What's the problem? Mortality

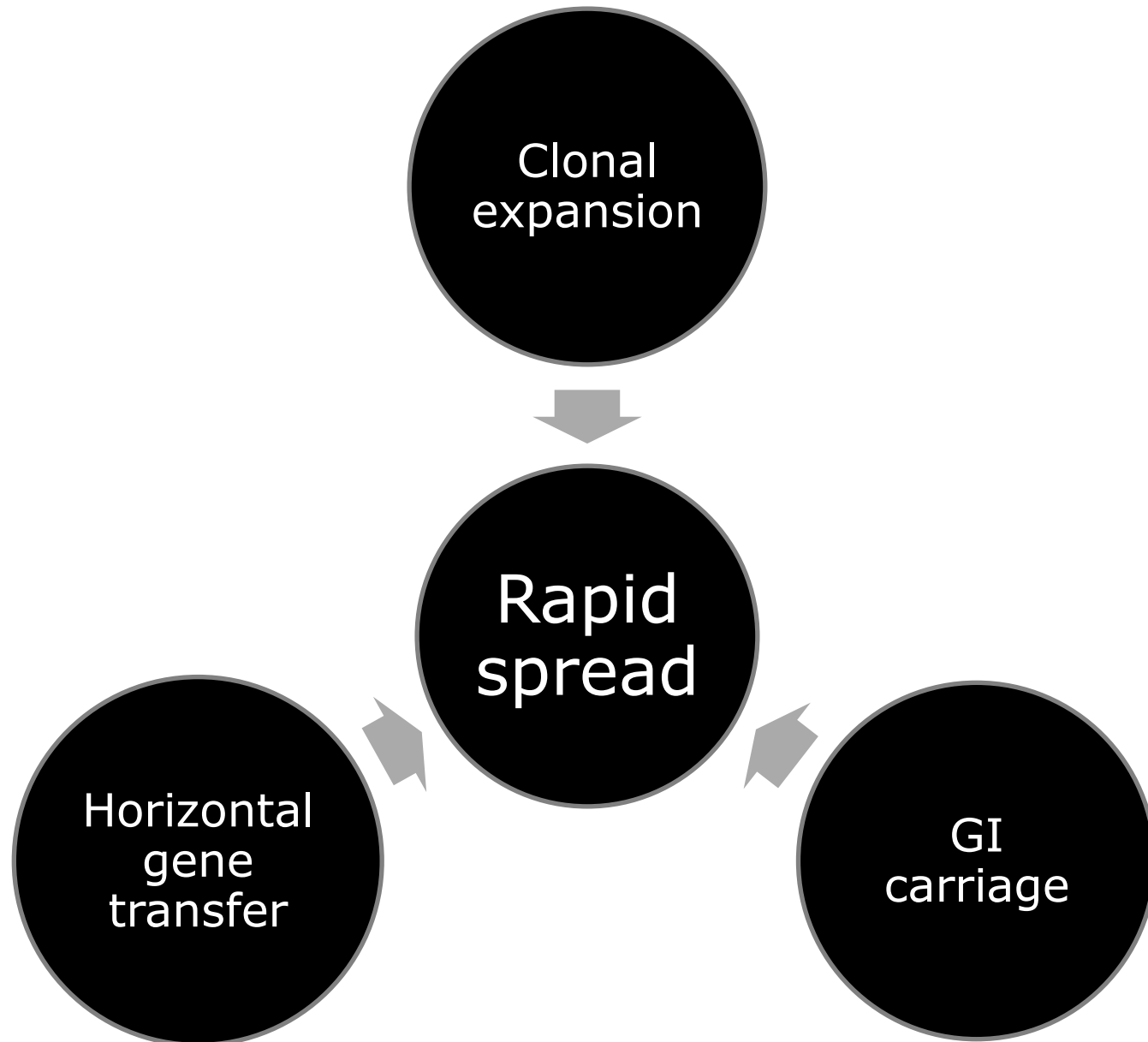
	<b>Enterobacteriaceae</b>		<b>Non fermenters</b>
Organism	AmpC / ESBL	CPE	<i>A. baumannii</i>
Attributable mortality	Moderate	Massive (>50%)	Minimal

Shorr *et al. Crit Care Med* 2009;37:1463-1469.

Patel *et al. Infect Control Hosp Epidemiol* 2008;29:1099-1106.

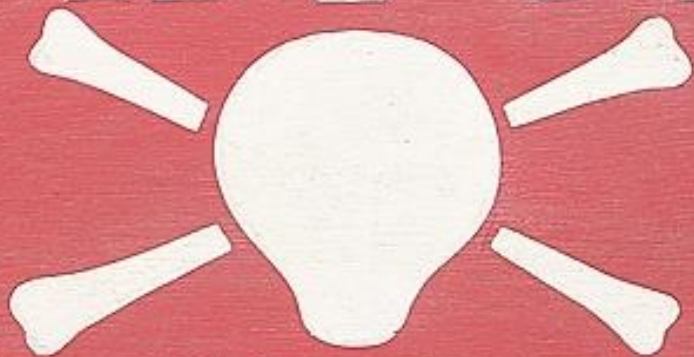
Falagas *et al. Emerg Infect Dis* 2014;20:1170-1175.

# What's the problem? Rapid spread





**DANGER**



**MINES**

# Acronym minefield

CPE

MDR-GNR

CPC

ESBL

MDR-GNB

CRO

CPE

CRE

CRC

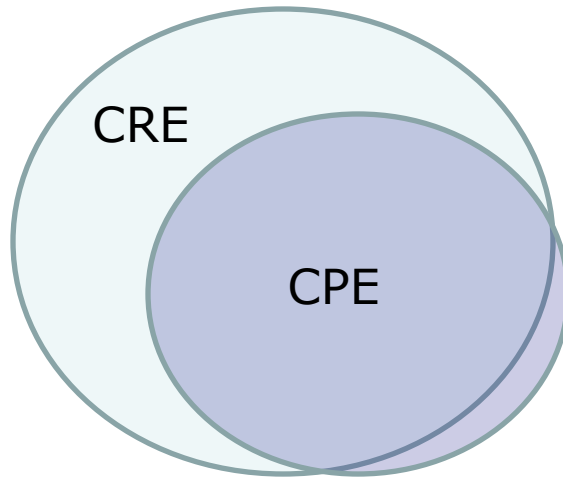
KPC

CRAB

# What are CRE?

*Carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE)* – Enterobacteriaceae that are resistant to carbapenems by any mechanism.

*Carbapenemase-producing Enterobacteriaceae (CPE)* – Enterobacteriaceae that are resistant to carbapenems by means of an acquired carbapenemase.

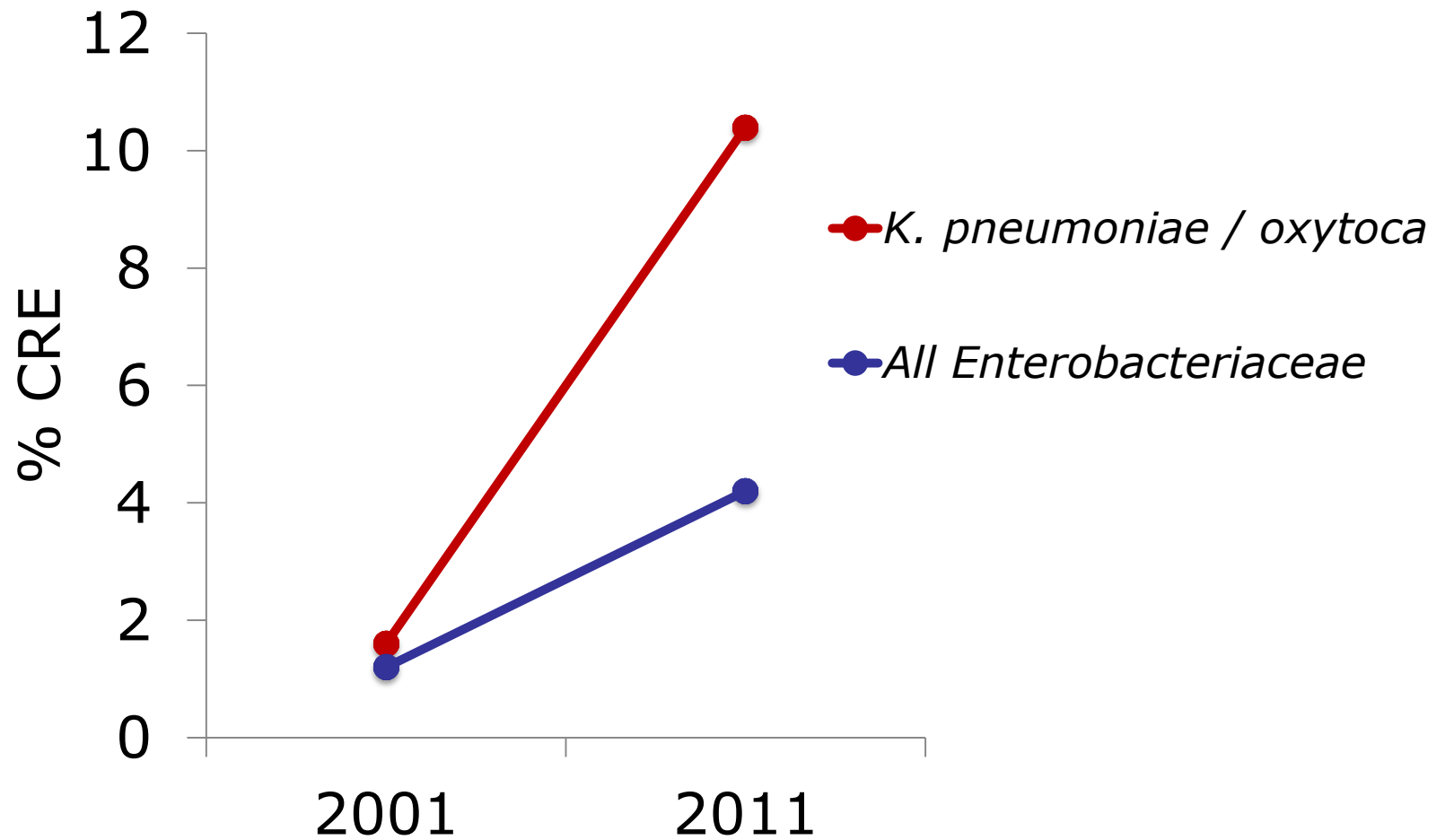


# Understanding the enemy

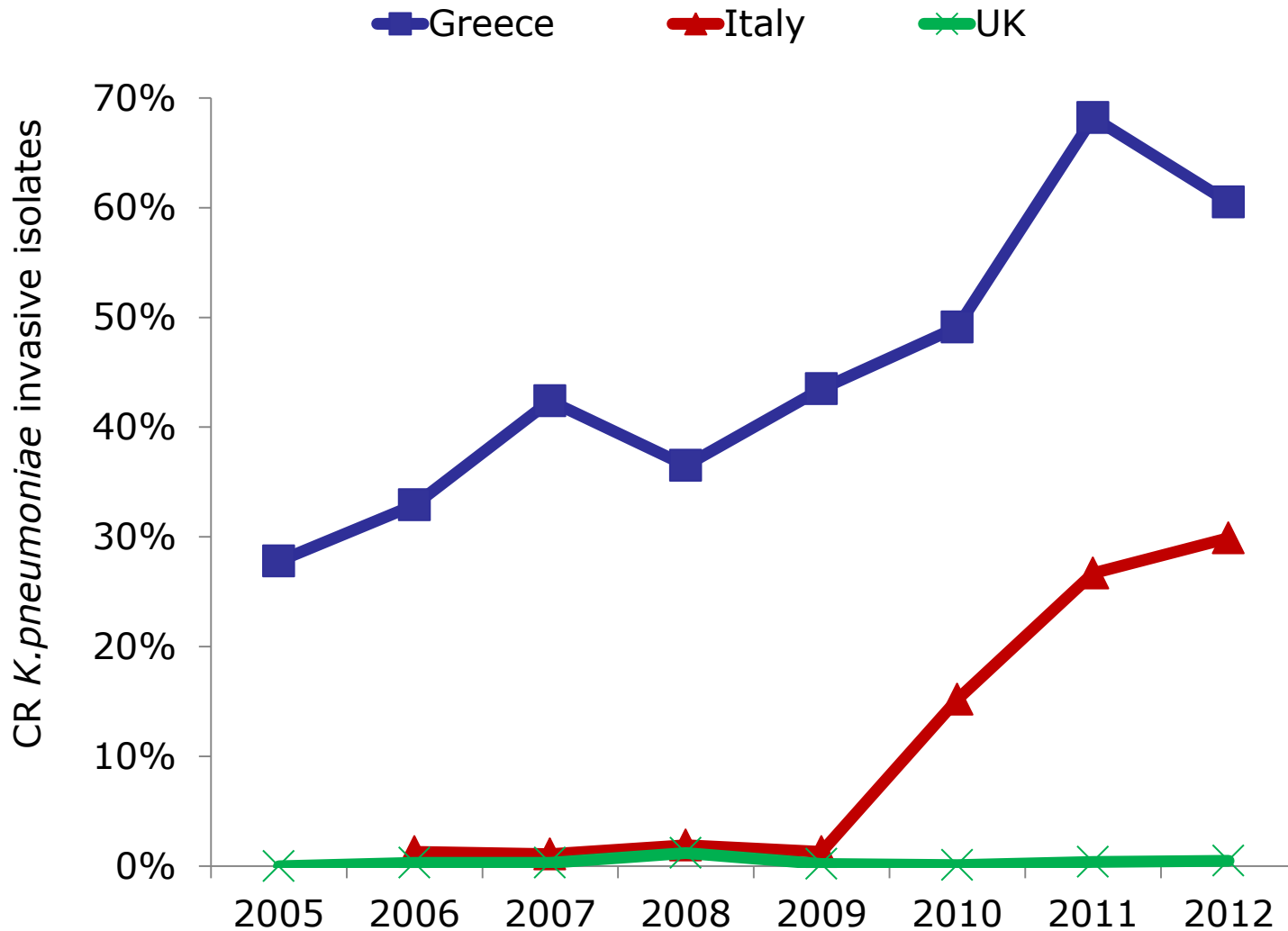
Pathogen	CRE <sup>1</sup>	MRSA	VRE	<i>C. difficile</i>
Resistance	+++	+	+	+/-
Resistance genes	Multiple	Single	Single	n/a
Species	Multiple	Single	Single	Single
HA vs CA	HA & CA	HA	HA	HA
At-risk pts	All	Unwell	Unwell	Old
Decolonisation	No	Yes	No	No
Virulence	+++	++	+/-	+
Environment	+/-	+	++	+++

1. Carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae.

# CRE in the USA



# Invasive CRKP trends



# Colistin resistance in Italy

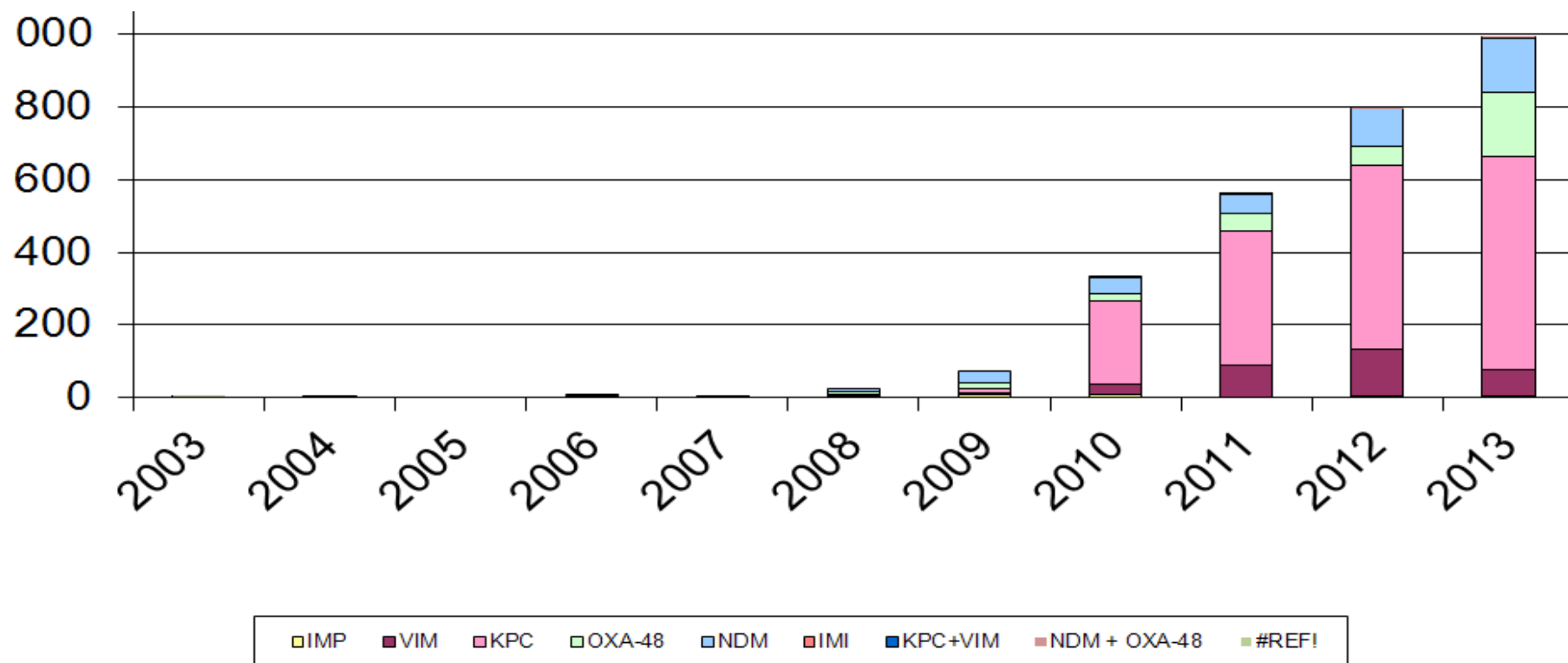


Survey of 191 CRE from 21 labs across Italy.

# 43%

Colistin resistant *K. pneumoniae*.  
Range = 10-80% for the 21 labs.

# Emergence of CRE in the UK





# CRE in the UK and US



PHE Gateway number: 2013-489  
To: Chief Executive Officer  
CC: Director of Nursing  
Medical Director

27 February 2014

Dear Chief Executive Officer,

**Re: Addressing the infection risk of other carbapenem-resistant organisms**

We are taking the unusual step of writing to address the risk posed to trusts and Enterobacteriaceae and other carbapenem-resistant organisms represent one of the currently face, and the failure to control have substantial human health and financial consequences. Management of these infections is also significantly more costly for the health system.

In order to minimise the wide spread of these infections, we are asking you to be grateful if you could ensure, as a national 'Acute trust toolkit for carbapenemase-producing Enterobacteriaceae'.

Additionally, to ensure that trusts are fully aware of the risk, next week NHS England will be publishing 'Addressing rising trends and outbreaks of carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae' resources and information that will support trusts to manage this risk. This information is included in the 'Key Information' appendix. These infections are already causing significant numbers of infections, outbreaks and resistance. Healthcare Associated Infections (HCAIs) produced by these organisms since 2009 and confirmed up to 25 positive samples on a voluntary basis. PHE will continue to work with trusts available to professional colleagues and national efforts to address the public health risk.

The 'Acute trust toolkit for the early detection of carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae' is available at: [http://www.hpa.org.uk/web/HPAwebHPAwebStandard/HPAweb\\_C/1317140378529](http://www.hpa.org.uk/web/HPAwebHPAwebStandard/HPAweb_C/1317140378529)



**Acute trust management of carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae**



**Patient Safety Alert**

Alert reference number: NHSPSA/Re/2014/004  
Alert stage: Two - Resources

Enterobacteriaceae are a large family of bacteria that usually live harmlessly in the gut of all humans and animals, but, in the wrong place, can cause serious infections. Worldwide, a small but increasing number of strains of enterobacteriaceae have become resistant to carbapenem antibiotics, which have been defined by WHO as critically important antibiotics. Carbapenemases are enzymes made by some strains of these bacteria, which allow them to destroy carbapenem antibiotics and cause resistance. Increasing trends in sporadic infections, clusters and outbreaks of carbapenemase-producing Enterobacteriaceae (CPE) have been observed in a number of NHS trusts in England. There is a high risk of this problem becoming more widespread unless early and decisive action is taken by trusts. These bacteria represent a significant challenge in terms of prevention, treatment and control. Inadequate measures to prevent and control transmission can have serious consequences for both patients, who may require more complex treatment to manage their infection, and hospitals in terms of ward closures and protracted patient stays. As a result of the escalating problem, Public Health England (PHE) is providing national support for ongoing efforts to control and reverse rising trends with the aim of minimising morbidity and preventing further outbreaks. Because the PHE resources are now available NHS England has been able to proceed to issuing a Stage 2 alert without a previous Stage 1 alert.

PHE have recently published a toolkit for acute trusts to assist them with the early detection, management and control of carbapenemase-producing Enterobacteriaceae. A key aspect of the control measures is to take special precautions for patients recently treated in countries known to have high levels of CPE or in UK hospitals with recent clusters or outbreaks of CPE. This alert is to bring this significant infection prevention and control challenge to the attention of the NHS and to signpost the toolkit developed to support the NHS in both controlling existing transmission problems and preventing further spread.

The toolkit along with 'UK Standards for Microbiology Investigations: Laboratory Detection and Reporting of Bacteria with Carbapenem-Hydrolyzing  $\beta$ -lactamases (Carbapenemases)' can be found at: [www.hpa.org.uk/web/HPAwebHPAwebStandard/HPAweb\\_C/1317140378529](http://www.hpa.org.uk/web/HPAwebHPAwebStandard/HPAweb_C/1317140378529)

BSAC antibiotic susceptibility testing guidance is available at: [www.bsac.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/AST-testing-and-reporting-guidance-v1-Final.pdf](http://www.bsac.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/AST-testing-and-reporting-guidance-v1-Final.pdf)

Implementation advice on the toolkit can be obtained from local PHE Centres: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/phe-centre-addresses-and-phone-numbers/phe-local-and-regional-contact-details](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/phe-centre-addresses-and-phone-numbers/phe-local-and-regional-contact-details)

**Patient Safety | Domain 5**  
[www.england.nhs.uk/patientsafety](http://www.england.nhs.uk/patientsafety)

Contact us: [patientsafety.enquiries@nhs.net](mailto:patientsafety.enquiries@nhs.net)  
Visit our website: [www.england.nhs.uk/patientsafety](http://www.england.nhs.uk/patientsafety)  
Report incidents: [www.england.nhs.uk/reportincident](http://www.england.nhs.uk/reportincident)



**Stage Two: Resources**  
*Addressing rising trends and outbreaks in carbapenemase-producing Enterobacteriaceae*  
6th March 2014

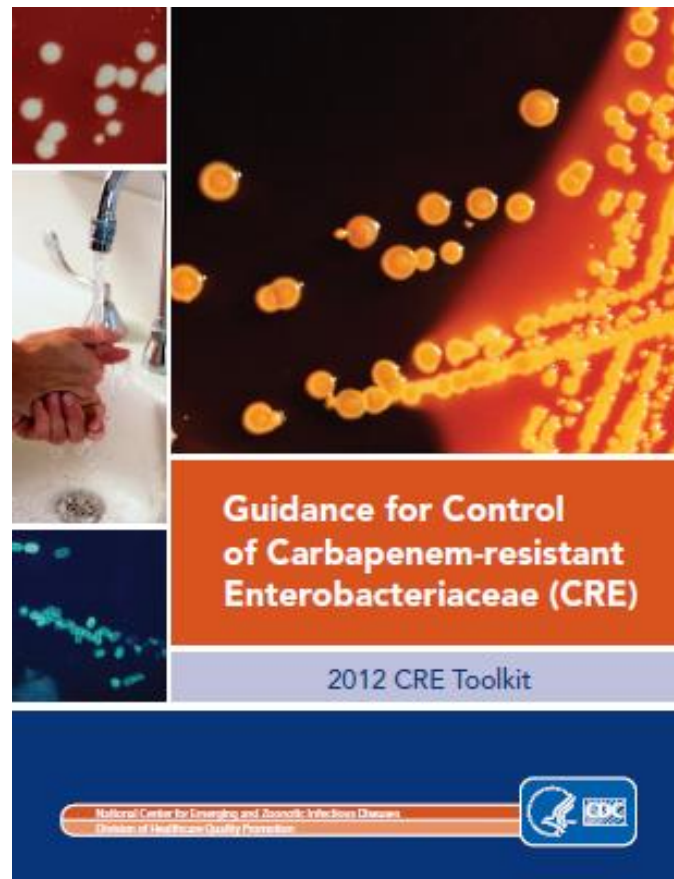
## Actions

**Who:** Chief Executives of NHS trusts and foundation trusts providing acute care and independent hospitals.

**When:** To commence immediately and completed by 30 June 2014

1. Bring this alert to the notice of the Director for Infection Prevention and Control (DIPC) and infection control staff to instigate the development of the board level CPE management plan.
2. In discussion with relevant clinical experts establish if there are / have been cases of CPE in the organisation and consider if immediate action is required locally to reduce the risk of such an incident / outbreak occurring.
3. In the light of the local situation the Infection Prevention and Control Committee to plan for local adoption and dissemination of the Acute Trust CPE toolkit to influence clinical practice. This will include advising front line staff of the issue and the Trust's plans for addressing CPE.

**Note:** This alert is being sent to GPs for information

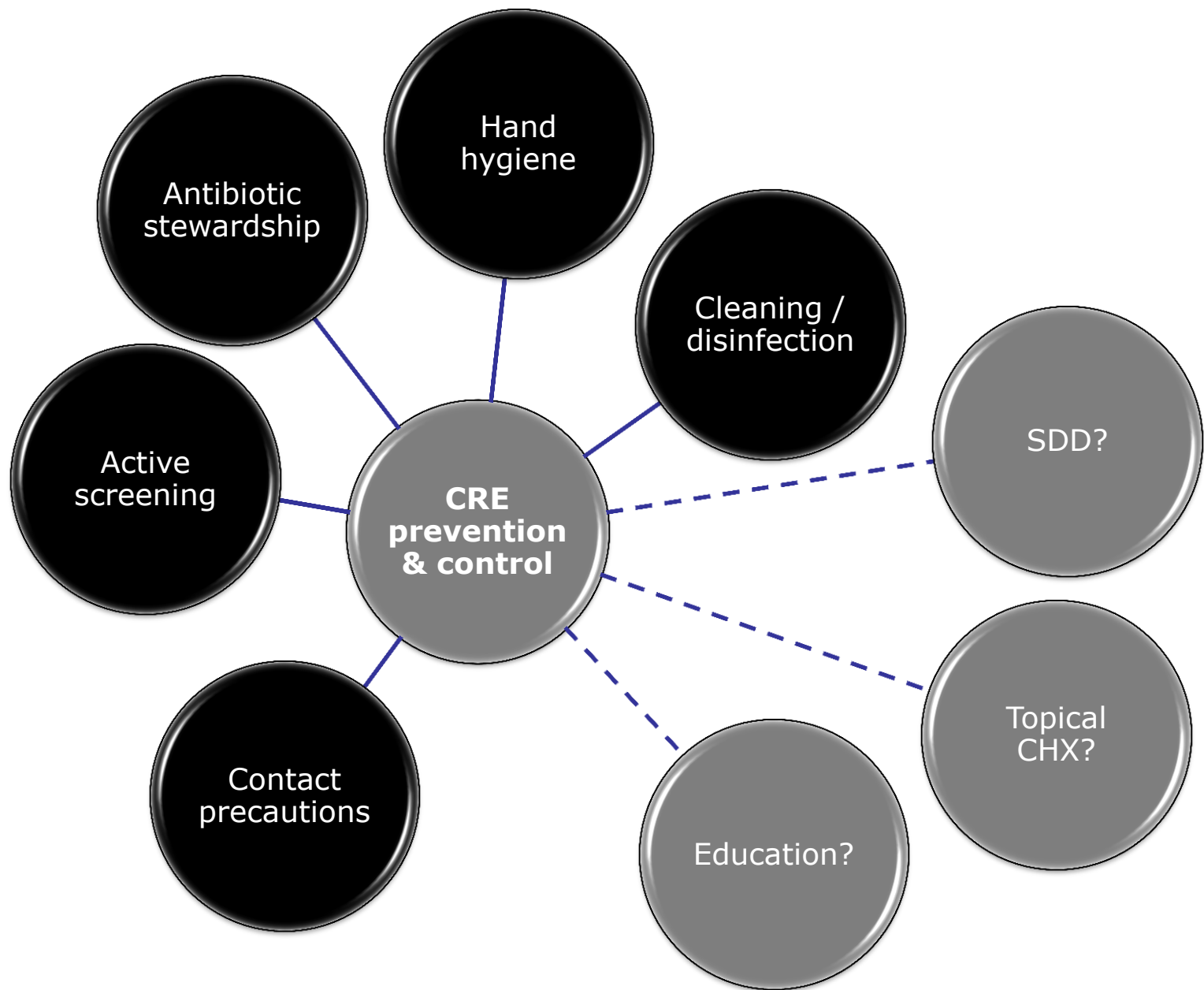


**Guidance for Control of Carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE)**

2012 CRE Toolkit

National Centre for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases  
Division of Healthcare Quality Improvement





# Who do I screen?

PHE CPE Toolkit screening triggers:

- a) an inpatient in a hospital abroad, or
- b) an inpatient in a UK hospital which has problems with spread of CPE (if known), or
- c) a 'previously' positive case.

Also consider screening admissions to high-risk units such as ICU, and patients who live overseas.

# How do I screen?

- Rectal swab is the best sample
  - Insert no more than 2cm into rectum
  - Twist gently and withdraw
  - Want to see faeces on swab.
- Patient education as to why this is needed in order to overcome taboos
- Avoid rectal swabs in children and those with low platelets.
- Alternate specimen is faeces but have to wait for the patient to 'go'

# You have positive case: now what?

## **'Contact precautions'**

Single room+glove/gown  
Consider staff cohort

## **Contact tracing**

Trigger for screening  
contacts or whole unit?

## **Flagging**

Patient notes flagged  
Receiving unit informed

## **Education**

Staff  
Patient / visitor

## **Cleaning / disinfection**

Use bleach or  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  vapor  
at discharge

## **Decolonization?**

'Selective  
decontamination' /  
chlorhexidine bathing?



# The challenge of endoscopes



- Cluster of 39 cases of NDM-producing CRE linked to contaminated duodenoscopes.<sup>1</sup>
- No failures in endoscope reprocessing identified, yet outbreak strain cultured from reprocessed endoscope.
- Prompted calls for more sterilization rather than high-level disinfection of endoscopes.<sup>2</sup>

*Meticulously cleaning duodenoscopes prior to high-level disinfection should reduce the risk of transmitting infection, but may not entirely eliminate it. ([FDA Feb 23 2015](#)).*

1. Epstein *et al.* *JAMA* 2014;312:1447-1455.
2. Rutala & Weber. *JAMA* 2014;312:1405-1406.

# Conclusions

- This is a new and evolving problem
- Recognition of patient carriers is vital
- Appropriate management of identified carriers is crucial
- Information may change in time if we see more cases
- Important to try and stay up to date and carry on with safe infection prevention precautions...