Carbapenem-resistant Enterobacterales: a growing threat

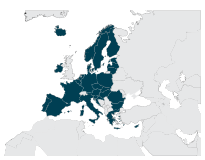
Patients and healthcare systems in the EU/EEA face a growing challenge from carbapenem-resistant Enterobacterales (CRE), including carbapenem-resistant *Klebsiella pneumoniae* (*K. pneumoniae*) and carbapenem-resistant *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*). Infections with CRE are linked to high mortality as available antibiotics become increasingly ineffective.

72% **increase in bloodstream infection**
caused by carbapenem-resistant *K. pneumoniae* since 2019*

The continued rise of CRE in healthcare settings - and its detection in community settings - will impact the effectiveness of treatments, the delivery of quality and sustainable healthcare and creates a very high risk to patients.

**Based on 2025 data*

What is the problem?



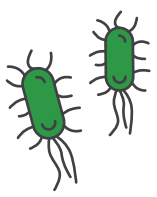
More carbapenem resistant *K. pneumoniae* infections. Increased carbapenem resistant *K. pneumoniae* detections in more European regions.



Increased virulence indicators of carbapenem resistant *K. pneumoniae*, leading to more and potentially more severe infections.



Increased multidrug resistance, including to several recently developed antibiotics against CRE, making infections much harder to treat.



Increased detection of community acquired carbapenem-resistant *E. coli*, raising concerns about wider transmission.

Very few treatment options remain available for patients with infections caused by these bacteria.

Addressing the challenge



Ensure all healthcare workers disinfect their hands before and after caring for patients and touching patient surroundings.



Strengthen infection prevention and control measures in healthcare settings including:
- Proper implementation of contact precautions;
- Screening patients for CRE carriage (according to the epidemiological situation)
- Environmental cleaning.



Ensure that laboratories have capacity to detect CRE rapidly and that public health agencies monitor CRE through surveillance.



Preserve the effectiveness of existing and new antibiotics through antimicrobial stewardship.



Strengthen national coordination for CRE prevention and control, with dedicated resources and actions.

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