



Health Alert



Rahm Emanuel, Mayor

Chicago Health Alert Network – January 10, 2019

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Verona Integron-mediated Metallo- β -lactamase-producing carbapenem-resistant *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (VIM-CRPA) infections among adult patients returning to the United States after undergoing invasive procedures

Summary and Action Items:

- Providers caring for patients with a history of recent invasive procedures in Mexico should be aware of the potential for infections caused by resistant pathogens like VIM-CRPA.
- Report to the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) any carbapenem-resistant *P. aeruginosa* surgical site infections in patients following invasive procedures in Mexico.
- Patients admitted to healthcare facilities in the U.S. following an overnight stay in a healthcare facility outside the U.S. (within the last 6 months) should undergo rectal screening for carbapenemase-producing organisms.
- Mechanism testing for carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE) and CRPA is available free of charge via the Antibiotic Resistance Laboratory Network. Please contact CDPH prior to submission to obtain approval and a submission code. Email CDPHHAIAR@cityofchicago.org or contact Massimo Pacilli at 312-746-6225.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) was notified beginning on September 28, 2018 through the Antibiotic Resistance Laboratory Network (<https://www.cdc.gov/drugresistance/solutions-initiative/ar-lab-network.html>) of 10 Verona Integron-mediated Metallo- β -lactamase-producing carbapenem-resistant *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (VIM-CRPA) infections among adult patients returning to the United States after undergoing invasive procedures (e.g. endoscopy, surgery) in Mexico. Seven patients reported receiving bariatric surgery in Tijuana, Baja California, Mexico during September 2018 to November, 2018. Out of these seven, six reported undergoing surgery at Grand View Hospital in the city of Tijuana.

Important information for healthcare providers

Providers caring for patients with a history of recent invasive procedures in Mexico should be aware of the potential for infections caused by resistant pathogens like VIM-CRPA. For those with signs of infection, U.S. healthcare providers should obtain cultures, perform antimicrobial susceptibility testing to guide treatment, and have any carbapenem-resistant strains of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and Enterobacteriaceae tested for VIM and other plasmid-mediated carbapenemases.

Additionally, please report to the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) any carbapenem-resistant *P. aeruginosa* surgical site infections in patients following invasive procedures in Mexico.

CDC continues to recommend that patients admitted to healthcare facilities in the U.S. following an overnight stay in a healthcare facility outside the U.S. (within the last 6 months) undergo rectal screening for carbapenemase-producing organisms.

Mechanism testing for carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE) and CRPA, and rectal screening for carbapenemases are available free of charge via the Antibiotic Resistance Laboratory Network, (<https://www.cdc.gov/drugresistance/solutions-initiative/ar-lab-network.html>), which can be accessed through CDPH-Healthcare Associated Infections Unit. Please contact CDPH prior to submission to obtain approval and a submission code. Please email CDPHHAIAR@cityofchicago.org or contact Massimo Pacilli at 312-746-6225 for any additional information. Laboratory testing reports may faxed to: 312-746-4683. Reports should include antibiotic susceptibility results, and results for any phenotypic/molecular testing performed.

Important information for patients seeking medical care outside of the U.S.

Medical tourism has been associated with complications, including infections caused by antibiotic-resistant strains of bacteria not commonly seen in the U.S. Patients who are considering seeking medical care overseas should be aware of this risk. Information about medical tourism is available at: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/yellowbook/2018/the-pre-travel-consultation/medical-tourism>

Please email CDPHHAIAR@cityofchicago.org or contact Massimo Pacilli at 312-746-6225 for any additional information.