

IPC Bulletin for GP Practice Staff

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Produced by an NHS Community Infection Prevention and Control Team based in North Yorkshire for distribution to subscribers.

Managing carbapenemase-producing Enterobacterales (CPE)

We have been asked to share the letter below from the Executive Medical Director, County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust, with General Practice staff across North Yorkshire and York, to support raising awareness in relation to CPE.



Dear Colleague

We are writing to provide an update regarding carbapenemase-producing Enterobacterales (CPE) following a number of cases we have been managing predominately at the Darlington Memorial Hospital. This letter is intended to raise awareness and offer guidance to assist you in identifying and managing potential cases within your practice.

CPE refers to bacteria that have developed resistance to carbapenem antibiotics, which are often used to treat severe infections, these organisms are also resistant to almost all penicillin or cephalosporin-based antibiotics. While colonisation is much more common than infection, affected patients are at risk of serious complications if they develop an infection, particularly if immunocompromised or having undergone recent interventions.

If you encounter patients who are not recovering as expected from conditions such as ulcers, urinary tract infections, wounds, or chest infections and have had a recent hospital stay across County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust (CDDFT), please consider the possibility of a CPE infection.

For patients meeting the above criteria, please request appropriate clinical samples to rule out or confirm CPE infection.

For guidance on diagnostic or treatment decisions, consult the CDDFT's microbiology team. They can provide expert advice tailored to the clinical presentation.

Patients who have been advised that they have been in contact with someone with CPE typically do not require any interventions or treatment. However, it is essential these individuals inform the hospital or healthcare setting of their contact history when attending future appointments or receiving care.

If you have any questions or require further advice, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Infection Prevention and Control or Microbiology CDDFT Teams.

You can also access more information on the national guidelines: [Actions to contain carbapenemase-producing Enterobacterales](#)

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely



Jeremy Cundall, Executive Medical Director

What's new—click on the links below:

- [IPC training event for General Practice: 9th June 2025](#)

Have you requested your free NYY copy of the templates:

- [Infection Prevention and Control Cleaning schedule and record templates for General Practice](#)

Visit our website to find lots of IPC resources, many of which are free to download.

www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk

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