

# CRE and *Candida auris* Colonization Screen



**Effective January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

Based on recommendations by the CDC and the Minnesota Department of Health, St. Luke's Hospital now recommends that certain patients, upon admission, who have had an overnight stay in a healthcare facility outside of the United States within the past 6 months, be screened for both Carbapenemase-producing organisms (CPO/CRE<sup>1</sup>) and *Candida auris*. In addition, patients who have had an overnight stay in a healthcare facility located in Chicago, New Jersey, or New York City within the last 6 months may also require colonization screening. If a patient meets any of these criteria, the admission screen will contact the Infection Prevention R.N.<sup>2</sup> and Infectious Disease to determine whether colonization screening is appropriate.

The screening test, if deemed necessary, can be ordered under the name: **Screen, CRE and C. auris Colonization** (Test Code: SCRNCRECA).

Once ordered, the necessary specimen collection swabs can be obtained by request from the laboratory. You will receive a test kit that includes both of the necessary collection swabs along with instructions on: how to collect each specimen, appropriate specimen labeling, and specimen storage requirements (if necessary in the event of a delay).

Once returned to the lab, the specimens will be forwarded to the Minnesota Department of Health for PCR testing. The turnaround time for this test is approximately 2 days, although up to 4 days may be necessary for *C. auris* results. Positive results will be treated as "urgent" and called to the patient's provider, Infectious Disease, and the Infection Prevention Specialist.

## **Sample Type:**

- CRE: rectal swab specimen collected using a Copan™ dual swab
- *Candida auris*: axilla and groin swab collected using and eSwab™

**Test Names:** Screen, CRE and C. auris Colonization (Test Code: SCRNCRECA)

If you have questions, please contact St. Luke's Microbiology Laboratory at 218-249-5319 or Dr. Jon Steinhauer at 218-249-5749.

<sup>1</sup>Traditionally, carbapenemase-producing organisms (CPOs) have been referred to as CREs, or carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae. However, not all carbapenemase-producing pathogens (i.e. *Pseudomonas* and *Acinetobacter*) belong to the Enterobacteriaceae family of bacteria. In addition, carbapenem resistance can occur through mechanisms other than carbapenemase production, hence carbapenem-producing organism (CPO) is the more appropriate, but less familiar, term.

<sup>2</sup>For additional information on screening requirements, or to determine the need for colonization screening, you can contact St. Luke's Infection Prevention Specialist, Libby Maas, at extension 5608.