



**IU Health Pathology Laboratory:
Carba-R Assay Change
October 26, 2021**

Effective Date:
October 26, 2021

Contact: Microbiology

Test Update:

Effective October 26, 2021, the IU Health Division of Clinical Microbiology will be implementing a new orderable (**CRE Rectal Screen**) for screening of carbapenemase-producing organisms directly from rectal/perirectal swabs. The assay will screen for the most prevalent carbapenemase genes coding for VIM, IMP, NDM, KPC, and OXA-48 by a real-time multiplex PCR, Xpert® Carba-R, and will replace the current CRE culture-based screen (**CRE Screen**). This new orderable is intended for use as an aid to infection control in the detection of carbapenem-resistant bacteria and is not intended to guide or monitor treatment of infection.

Rationale & Comments:

- Switching to Carba-R detection directly from rectal/perirectal swabs is expected to significantly reduce turnaround times, as screening is no longer dependent on working-up pure culture.
- Verification was performed using current specimen collection methods and available consumables: Becton Dickson (BD) BBL™ CultureSwab Collection and Transport System with Stuart Liquid Medium (BD Reference Number: 220109).
- Reporting format will be presented as detected or not detected and specific carbapenemase genes will be included in positive reports. (e.g. “KPC gene Detected by Cepheid Xpert Carba-R Assay.”).

Questions:

If there are any questions on test requirements or ordering, please call IU Health Pathology Laboratory Client Services at 317.491.6000 or 800.433.0740. For any additional information, please contact Dr. Christopher Emery, Section Director, Bacteriology, IU Health Clinical Microbiology Laboratory by email at cemery@iuhealth.org.