



“Nightmare Bacteria Considered More Dangerous than MRSA”

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On March 6th, Dr. Tom Frieden, Director of the CDC sounded the alarm to healthcare providers throughout the country to be aware of a lethal superbug known as CRE (Carbapenem-Resistant Enterobacteriaceae). Enterobacteriaceae are a family of more than 70 bacteria including *Klebsiella pneumoniae* and *E. coli* that normally live in the digestive system.

Considered more dangerous than MRSA, Dr. Frieden called CRE a “Nightmare Bacteria” because of its high mortality rate, its resistance to nearly all antibiotics, and its ability to spread its drug resistance to other bacteria. “Our strongest antibiotics don’t work and patients are left with potentially untreatable infections.”

Although risks appears to be highest in patients with complex medical problems or who are in long term care settings, according to the CDC, he called on the entire health care community “to work urgently, individually, regionally, and nationally to implement the CDC’s ‘detect and protect’ strategy to stop these infections from spreading.”

Dr. Frieden urged health workers to follow Standard Precautions and follow current CDC recommended infection control precautions in all patient contact and care. Chief among the control recommendations is the call for all healthcare professionals to follow current CDC guidelines and wash or disinfect their hands in keeping with the CDC’s recommended infection control guidelines.

“The bug is spread mainly by unclean hands”, Dr. Frieden explained. “Compliance with hand-washing, with using gowns and gloves properly, remains a challenge and it’s something that we call on healthcare facilities to do a better job of”... the CDC Director stated. “We have the weapons to stop this” from following the pattern of another superbug, MRSA.

For more information visit: www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2013