



To: NHS Trust Chief Executives  
Directors of Infection Prevention Control  
Directors of Nursing of NHS Trusts

PHE gateway number: 2014146

19 June 2014

Dear Colleague

### **Risk prioritisation matrix to assist planning for the threat of carbapenemase-producing Enterobacteriaceae**

The PHE working group for carbapenemase-producing Enterobacteriaceae has produced a supplementary Risk Prioritisation Matrix for NHS trusts and independent healthcare providers to support the development of a plan for the implementation of PHE's *Acute trust toolkit for the early detection, management and control of carbapenemase-producing Enterobacteriaceae* (published December 2013). This has been prepared in conjunction with NHS colleagues, from across the UK, taking into account their concerns and opinions relating to the most challenging parts of the toolkit.

The matrix is intended to ease the process of implementation for trusts that need to build a step-wise approach into planning. It focuses on prioritising both high-risk care environments and patients whilst work is undertaken to build both capacity and capability to cope with this threat. Some trusts already facing difficulties with these organisms have chosen a more aggressive approach e.g. screening all patients on admission to high risk environments.

We recognise that much work is still to be done to address the risk from carbapenemase-producing Enterobacteriaceae. This includes improving the provision of information that will assist healthcare colleagues to make an accurate risk assessment at the frontline. It is acknowledged that working to implement the toolkit without high quality information is challenging. To inform the planning process, colleagues may also find it useful to extrapolate risk assessment advice provided on p17-19 of APICs ['Guide to the Elimination of Multidrug-resistant \*Acinetobacter baumannii\* Transmission in Healthcare Settings'](#).

Work is ongoing to strengthen surveillance, to develop ease of access to the international picture, to identify high prevalence areas in the UK and to provide a

comprehensive account of prevalence at trust level. It is intended that both the matrix and the toolkit will be reviewed in due course as information becomes clearer.

Additional resources relating to the toolkit '*Frequently asked questions for health professionals*' and '*Relevant literature and resources*' can now be found [online here](#).

Yours sincerely,

The Carbapenemase-producing Enterobacteriaceae Toolkit Working Group

**Withdrawn: October 2020**