Surveying for Superbugs: A Survey on Carbapenem-Resistant *Enterobacteriaceae* (CRE) Rates and Laboratory Practices in New Jersey, 2014

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# Objectives

- Participants will...
  - 1. Understand the threat of CRE and usefulness of having CRE surveillance
  - 2. Gain insight into CRE incidence and laboratory practices in New Jersey

### Danger of CRE

- Nationally, carbapenem-resistant *Enterobacteriaceae* (CRE) infections are estimated to have 50% mortality or higher, based on underlying conditions and length of stay
- CRE detected in approximately 5% of acute care hospitals in the US (using CLABSI and CAUTI date from NHSN)
  - This percentage is estimated to be 10% in Northeastern states
- CDC's latest Vital Signs (Aug 2015), outlined the need for a coordinated facility approach







## Background on CRE

- Carbapenem-Resistant *Enterobacteriaceae* are gram negative family of bacteria
  - Includes many species including the more notable *Escherichia coli, Klebsiella pneumoniae, Enterobacter* spp., *Serratia* spp., *and Proteus* spp.
- CRE are either resistant to carbapenem antibiotics or produce an enzyme that destroys it (carbapenemase)
  - There are 11 or more types of carbapenemases found in carbapenemase-producing CRE (CP-CRE)
- The two most problematic in the US are KPC (*Klebsiella pneumoniae* carbapenemase) and NDM (New Delhi Metallo-beta-lactamase)

## Spread of CRE

• KPC and NDM are spreading across US, as are others like OXA-48 (an OXA-type carbapenemase) and VIM (Verona Integron-Mediated Metallobeta-lactamase)



#### Methods

• Survey was developed in Hippocrates, a NJspecific application aimed at capturing, managing, displaying, and disseminating health information



- Survey was sent electronically to all acute care hospital laboratory directors and supervisors
- Distribution list provided by NJ Public Health and Environmental Laboratories

### Methods

• Survey question topics included: susceptibility testing practices and cutoffs used, known or estimated rate of CRE positive isolates, species isolated, and notification of clinical team

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 Survey results were exported and summarized in Microsoft Excel 2010 and SAS 9.3















#### **Results-Capacity and Communication**

- There were 33 (59%) hospitals that had PCR testing capabilities, which is relevant for future testing of carbapenemase production
- There were 19 (34%) hospitals that currently tested for carbapenemase production, although not all the time
- There were 50 (89%) hospitals that had a protocol for informing someone on the clinical team
  - Of those, 34 (68%) of informed the infection preventionist (IP) or nursing team

#### Limitations

- Not all hospitals knew their numerator and denominator data, so about 52% of hospitals had to estimate their CRE rate
- Possible volunteer bias
- Possible misclassification bias due to varied susceptibility cutoffs used

#### Conclusion

- This survey was the first study to assess CRE rates and testing in New Jersey
- Hospitals can also compare where they stand in their testing practices and capabilities when the results of the survey are disseminated back to the NJ hospitals
- NJDOH is more informed of the species to consider for future CRE reporting considerations

### Next Steps

- NJDOH is now in the process of sending out a second survey directed at acute care hospital IPs
  - This survey will be aimed at assessing common practice for CRE positive patients and also other cases of resistant organisms
- Together with the lab survey results, NJDOH will gain a more complete preliminary picture of hospital practice and prevention of CRE and other resistant organism infections
- Further studies should be conducted for more reliable and accurate results

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# Questions?

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