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January 19, 2017

**TO:** All Acute Care Hospitals and Skilled Nursing Facilities in Los Angeles County

**FROM:** Jeffrey D. Gunzenhauser, M.D., M.P.H.  
Interim Health Officer

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeffrey D. Gunzenhauser, MD".

**RE: Health Officer Order for Reporting of Carbapenem-Resistant *Enterobacteriaceae* and Antimicrobial Resistance**

Antimicrobial resistance, including carbapenem-resistant *Enterobacteriaceae* (CRE), is a growing public health problem. In order to better understand the magnitude of the problem and identify areas for public health intervention, I am issuing this Health Officer Order mandating that all acute care hospitals and skilled nursing facilities report clinical laboratory CRE-positive tests isolated from any specimen source to the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LAC DPH). In addition, I am requiring acute care hospitals, and skilled nursing facilities that generate an antibiogram, to provide LAC DPH the most recent antibiogram each year.

CRE, defined as *Enterobacteriaceae* (*Klebsiella sp.*, *E. coli*, and *Enterobacter sp.*) resistant to carbapenem antibiotics or that produce carbapenemases, are epidemiologically important healthcare-associated pathogens. Studies have shown that CRE infections are difficult to treat, the mortality rate is high, and infection is easily spread between patients in healthcare facilities. From 2010-2012 when carbapenem-resistant *Klebsiella pneumoniae* (CRKP), a subset of CRE, was a reportable condition, over 2,000 cases were reported to DPH. Reliable current rates of CRKP and other CRE in healthcare facilities are not available. As CRE continues to grow in public health importance, reporting is necessary to monitor, prevent, and control the disease to protect the public's health.

Antibiograms, defined as an annual summary of susceptibility rates for selected bacterial pathogens, provide comprehensive information about local antimicrobial resistance. Within health care organizations, this information is combined with clinical expertise to guide optimal antimicrobial treatment for patients with CRE or other serious infections. Annual consolidation of organizational antibiograms to create a community antibiogram will allow DPH to evaluate temporal trends and geographic patterns of antimicrobial resistance within LAC and to guide control efforts. Analysis of acute care hospital antibiograms collected in 2013 showed that resistance varied between facilities and across areas of the County.

**ORDER:** Pursuant to my authority under section 120175 of the California Health and Safety Code and Title 17, sections 2500-2505, I hereby order:

1. Acute care hospitals and skilled nursing facilities enrolled in the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) report CRE, as defined above, via the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) NHSN, MDRO and CDI Module - LabID component.
2. Skilled nursing facilities not enrolled in NHSN report CRE by using Confidential Morbidity Report (CMR) forms within 7 calendar days of the time of identification, including a copy of the laboratory report; or via automated Electronic Laboratory Reporting (ELR) when such capability is available.
3. Acute care hospitals and skilled nursing facilities submit an antibiogram with susceptibilities defined using Clinical Laboratory Standards Institute criteria, in an electronic format to the Department on an annual basis; this provision shall not apply to skilled nursing facilities that do not annually create an antibiogram.

Compliance with the Order is as follows:

- Acute care hospitals and skilled nursing facilities enrolled in NHSN shall report clinical laboratory CRE-positive tests collected on or after January 1, 2017.
- Acute care hospitals and skilled nursing facilities enrolled in NHSN shall confer rights for CRE data, including patient information, to the LA County CRE NHSN group by February 28, 2017.
- Skilled nursing facilities not enrolled in NHSN shall begin reporting by February 1, 2017.
- As skilled nursing facilities enroll in NHSN, they are no longer to report CRE via CMR; the reporting requirement will shift to NHSN.
- Acute care hospitals, and skilled nursing facilities that create an antibiogram, shall submit the antibiogram electronically as outlined in [www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/antibiogram.htm](http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/antibiogram.htm).

**DURATION OF ORDER:** This Order will remain in effect until rescinded by the Health Officer.

Information on CRE and guidelines for control of CRE infections in health care facilities are available on the LAC DPH website at [www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd](http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd). For other questions regarding this Order, please contact the Acute Communicable Disease Control Program at (213) 240-7941.

cc: All Clinical Microbiology Laboratories in Los Angeles County