

CPE Cards - Contact Patients and CPE Patients – information is for admission/reception/administration staff in hospitals, GP practices and community based services

CPE is the newest in a long line of what people sometimes call “superbugs”. When we talk about “superbugs’ we mean bacteria that are hard to kill with antibiotics. Of all the superbugs we have had so far CPE is the hardest to kill with antibiotics. We think the number of people who carry CPE in Ireland is still fairly small (probably 2000 to 3000 people). This means that if we take very good care of people who carry CPE over the next couple of years there is still time to stop CPE becoming very common.

Some patients who have already been identified as either **CPE Colonised** or as a **CPE Contact** have been given a card. There are pictures of these cards below. The purpose of the card is to help them tell healthcare workers that they are **CPE Colonised** or a **CPE Contact**. **CPE Colonised** means that they have been proven to carry CPE but it does not mean that CPE is causing an infection.

CPE Contact does NOT mean that they have been proved to carry CPE but that they are at higher risk than most people of carrying CPE because they spent some time in hospital close to a patient who was known to have CPE.

Patients who have been given these cards have been asked to show this card to staff any time they access healthcare. They may show the card to admission/reception/administration staff/doctors/nurses or other healthcare workers.

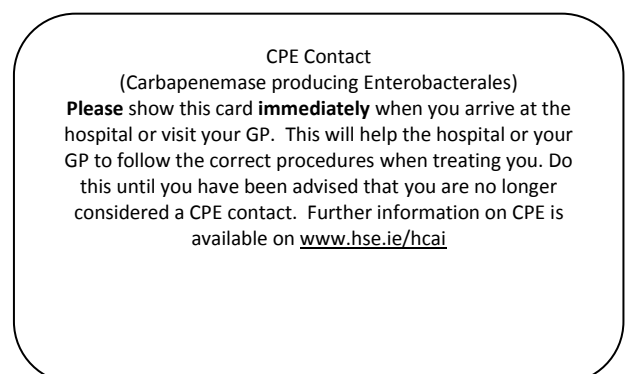
This note is to tell you what to do if you are shown a “Colonisation” card or a “Contact” card.

Contact Card

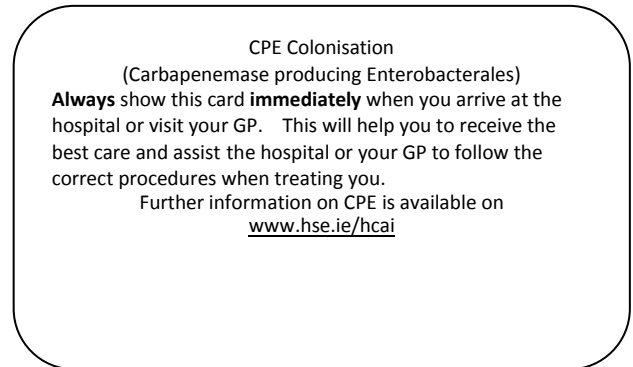
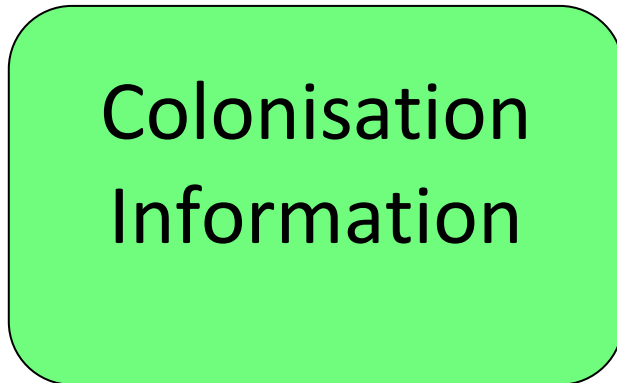
Front



Back



Colonisation Card



People who carry CPE (or any other microbe) or who have been identified as CPE Contacts have equal rights to treatment and services. Their treatment/admission should not be compromised or delayed due to concerns regarding CPE.

Non-Clinical Staff

- These patients are not a significant risk to you.
- If the patient is in a reception area or a waiting room they do not need to sit separately from other people and you should be careful not to say or do anything that cause the patient embarrassment or gives any information about the patient to patients or members of the public in the reception or waiting area.
- You should bring the card to the attention of the clinical staff who will be responsible for the patient as soon as possible.

Clinical Staff in Acute Hospitals

- **CPE Colonised** patients do not need to be segregated from others when sitting in the waiting area.
- CPE colonised patients are one of the highest priorities for rapid single room isolation when they enter the clinical care space.
- The most senior member of staff on duty who is managing patient placement should be informed promptly.
- If for any reason the patient cannot immediately be placed in a single room with en-suite facilities be scrupulous in applying **Standard Precautions** and **Contact Precautions** while waiting for a single room to become available.
- Alert the Infection Prevention and Control Team during working hours.
- **CPE Contact** patients do not need to be segregated from others when sitting in the waiting area.
- CPE Contact patients are at increased risk of carrying CPE.
- CPE Contact patients should be placed in single room isolation as soon as possible when they enter the clinical care space.

- As soon as possible collect a rectal swab for testing for CPE from the patient and send to the laboratory with a clear indication that the patient is a CPE Contact.
- The most senior member of staff on duty who is managing patient placement should be informed promptly.
- If for any reason the patient cannot immediately be placed in a single room with en-suite facilities be scrupulous in applying **Standard Precautions** and **Contact Precautions** while waiting for a single room to become available.
- Alert the Infection Prevention and Control Team during working hours.
- Additional information and guidance related to CPE are available at www.hse.ie/hcai

Clinical Staff in community services (including GP practices, public health nurses, therapy staff and dental staff)

- Take particular care to follow Standard Precautions, in particular hand hygiene, when caring for CPE Colonised or CPE Contact patients.
- If you have close physical contact with CPE Colonised patients use personal protective equipment (gloves and apron when appropriate)
- Additional information and guidance related to CPE are available at www.hse.ie/hcai
- There is expert guidance in place for all hospitals and health services to use when providing care for patients with CPE or CPE contacts. The information is accessible at www.hse.ie/hcai