Carbapenemase Producing Coliforms (CPC)
CPC stands for Carbapenemase producing Coliforms.

Coliforms are bacteria that normally live in the gut. These bacteria are usually sensitive to antibiotics. Sometimes however they can become resistant to the types of antibiotics that are usually used as a last resort when treating serious infections.

These antibiotics are called Carbapenems and some coliforms can produce an enzyme (called Carbapenemase) to destroy these types of antibiotics.

This is often combined with resistance to other types of antibiotics and can make it very difficult to treat infections caused by this type of bacteria.

Some patients can carry these organisms without showing any signs or symptoms.

For this reason, patients either infected with, or colonised by a CPC, must be isolated to prevent the chance of fellow patients picking up the bacteria.

By isolating patients in this way, we aim to prevent the spread of CPC and the associated risk to all our patients.
Why am I being screened?

It is known that CPC can be picked up in hospitals abroad during routine health care and now hospitals in the UK have reported similar experiences.

You have been identified as having been admitted to another hospital in the last eighteen months and could therefore be carrying the CPC bacteria.

How will I be screened?

As these organisms are carried in the gut, the best way to screen for them is to take a stool specimen or a swab from the rectal area (back passage). Samples are then sent to the laboratory.

How will I get the results?

If you are being screened prior to admission, your results will be sent to the pre operative assessment team. If you are positive you may be contacted prior to admission or you may be informed on admission that isolation precautions will be necessary during your stay in hospital. You will not be contacted if you are found to be negative.

If you have been admitted as an emergency, the staff looking after you will wear gloves and aprons as a precaution until the results are known. If the results are negative no further action will be necessary. Either way you will be informed of the result by the nursing staff.
What if I test positive?

CPC do not cause problems to people who are otherwise fit and healthy, and you will not normally suffer any effects from carrying CPC. Antibiotic treatment to prevent or treat any infections may be more complicated when you are carrying CPC. Any treatment will be discussed with a Consultant Microbiologist during your stay.

If you are positive we will use isolation precautions. This means we will care for you in a single room usually with en-suite facilities. You will stay in this side room for the duration of your stay. This helps to prevent the spread of infection to other patients. Staff will wear gloves and aprons when caring for you and will wash their hands carefully before leaving the room.

How will I know when the infection has gone? CPC colonisation may continue for a considerable length of time and therefore we will continue to use isolation precautions and perform weekly screens until you are discharged home. It is helpful to understand the difference between an infection and a colonisation. If the CPC is causing signs of infection, your doctor will prescribe treatment. If you are just colonised with a CPC (carrying the organism without it causing any problems) treatment may not be necessary.
Visitor Information

Will it affect my visitors, family and friends?

CPC is not a risk to healthy people, and so we encourage you to have visitors but they will need to wear gloves and aprons.

Visitors should wash their hands carefully before leaving your room and staff will advise them not to visit other patients on the ward or socialise with other patients relatives whilst visiting the hospital to reduce the chance of them passing on the organism to other patients.
Options available
If you'd like a large print, audio, Braille or a translated version of this leaflet then please call: 01253 655588

Patient Relations Department
For information or advice please contact the Patient Relations Department via the following:
Tel: 01253 655588
email: patient.relations@bfwh.nhs.uk

You can also write to us at:
Patient Relations Department, Blackpool Victoria Hospital, Whinney Heys Road, Blackpool FY3 8NR

Further information is available on our website: www.bfwh.nhs.uk

Travelling to our hospitals
For the best way to plan your journey to any of the local hospitals visit our travel website: www.bfwhospitals.nhs.uk/departments/travel/

Useful contact details
Hospital Switchboard: 01253 300000
Infection Prevention Team
01253 303874

References
This leaflet is evidence based wherever the appropriate evidence is available, and represents an accumulation of expert opinion and professional interpretation.

Details of the references used in writing this leaflet are available on request from:
Policy Co-ordinator/Archivist
01253 303397

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