

# MLS Laboratory Update: Changes to Carbapenem-resistant *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (CRP) Isolate Submission Criteria

**AUGUST 25, 2026**

## **Purpose of this Message:**

To inform MLS and AR Lab Network laboratories of important changes to carbapenem-resistant *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (CRP) submission criteria.

## **Action Item:**

Please see new criteria for submitting CRP to MDH-PHL. Please forward this information to laboratory staff and infection prevention and control partners.

## **Background:**

Surveillance of CRP is focused on detection of carbapenemase-producing strains. To date, most of the CRP isolates submitted to MDH-PHL are not carbapenemase-producing strains. In order to reduce testing of isolates that are unlikely to harbor a carbapenemase gene of public health concern (e.g., NDM, VIM, etc.), and to decrease the number of isolates that laboratories need to submit, MDH-PHL is requesting that additional antimicrobial susceptibility test results be used to determine which isolates are forwarded to our laboratory for resistance mechanism testing.

## **Criteria for Submission of Isolates:**

### **For laboratories that test ceftolozane-tazobactam:**

- Submit CRP isolates that are:
  - Resistant to at least one carbapenem, excluding ertapenem, (MIC  $\geq 8$   $\mu\text{g/ml}$  or zone size  $\leq 15$  mm)
  - AND
  - Resistant to ceftolozane-tazobactam (MIC  $\geq 16/4$   $\mu\text{g/ml}$  or zone size  $\leq 16$  mm)

### **For laboratories that do not test ceftolozane-tazobactam:**

- Submit CRP isolates that are:
  - Resistant to at least one carbapenem, excluding ertapenem, (MIC  $\geq 8$   $\mu\text{g/ml}$  or zone size  $\leq 15$  mm)
  - AND

- Non-susceptible (intermediate or resistant) to cefepime OR ceftazidime (intermediate MIC=16 µg/ml or zone size 15-17 mm; resistant MIC ≥32 µg/ml or zone size ≤14 mm)

MDH-PHL also requests only one isolate per patient, per specimen source, per year with the same AST profile be submitted unless specifically requested by the patient's care provider or if your hospital policy dictates more frequent testing.

Other species of *Pseudomonas* may continue to be submitted for testing if only resistant to a carbapenem.

**Additional Information:**

[Antibimicrobial Resistance \(AR\) Laboratory Network Central Region Lab Forms](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/idlab/arln.html)  
(<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/idlab/arln.html>)

**Questions:**

If you have any questions, please contact Paula Snippes Vagnone, [paula.snippes@state.mn.us](mailto:paula.snippes@state.mn.us)

Thank you for your ongoing partnership as we continue to combat antimicrobial resistance,

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