

Multi-drug resistant *Enterobacter cloacae*

What is it?

- *Enterobacter cloacae* is a type of bacteria (germ) that is normally found living in our bowels (gut).
- It can cause infections in the urinary tract, lungs, and blood.
- Some strains of this bacteria are resistant to many antibiotics normally used to treat infections.
- Multi-drug resistant *Enterobacter cloacae* can live in our bowels and not cause infection. If you have it, but are not sick from it, no treatment is needed. This is called the “carrier state” and you can carry it for a long time. Treatment is only needed if an infection does occur.

How is it spread?

- Multi-drug resistant *Enterobacter cloacae* is not spread through the air, but may survive on equipment such as bedrails, tables, chairs, countertops, door handles, and sink drains.
- It can be spread from one person to another by unwashed hands or contact with soiled equipment and surfaces.
- Cleaning your hands is the best way to stop the spread.
- Illness can occur when it gets into the body and cause an infection such as a urinary tract infection or lung infection.

What happens if my baby has it?

- Your baby will stay in a private room
- Other babies in the same area with your baby will be tested (rectal swab).
- A sign will be placed on the door to remind others who enter your baby's room to wear gloves and a gown. This is called “Contact Precautions” (isolation).
- Everyone who enters and leaves your baby's room must clean their hands, including you.
- Your baby's hospital record will show that they have multi-drug resistant *Enterobacter cloacae*.

Can my baby have visitors?

- Yes. Healthy family and visitors have a low risk of getting an infection with multi-drug resistant Enterobacter cloacae. All visitors must be instructed by staff on what to do before entering and leaving the baby's room. Children who are visiting must be closely watched. We ask that visitors only visit your baby in their room, and to do the following:
 - ✓ clean their hands before entering and leaving the room
 - ✓ follow the sign on the door and instructions given by staff
 - ✓ do not eat or drink in your baby's room

Clean hands are important!

- You can wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer. It is Okay to ask staff and visitors to clean their hands before and after they touch your baby.

At home?

- When you go home, wash your hands often, especially before preparing food and after providing care to your baby. Wash for a minimum of 15-20 seconds each time.
- You can wash all clothes as you usually do. No need to keep separate from other household members.
- If your baby goes to another health care facility, visits another doctor, or has home care services you should tell them that your baby has multi-drug resistant Enterobacter cloacae. They may wear gloves and/or a gown to help prevent spread. It will also help your doctor choose the correct antibiotic treatment if your baby develops an infection with Enterobacter.

Adherence to Infection Prevention and Control measures by staff and visitors is required to prevent the spread of infection

**Stop the spread of germs and infection.
Clean your hands.**



This fact sheet provides basic general information only and is to be used as a quick guide, not as a complete resource on the subject. If you have any further questions, ask Infection Prevention & Control or your health care provider.