

# How to Collect Specimens for CRE

- Patients who may have had significant exposure to Carbapenem-resistant *enterobacterales* (CRE) may have an infection banner prompting to screen for CRE.
- Place in **CONTACT ISOLATION** and follow BPA to order test:
  - CRE PCR (LAB1236)



## **Collect CRE swab using the RED, dual swab:**

### **\*Red for rectal swab**

1. Use 2 patient identifiers to verify you are collecting a swab on the correct patient.
2. Perform hand hygiene and don gloves.
3. Open package and care not to touch the cotton tips to prevent contamination.
4. The dual swab may be moistened with **sterile saline** or transport medium only
  - a. Do **NOT** use tap water or lubricating jelly
5. Insert both swab tips approximately 1 cm beyond the anal sphincter and gently rotate against the walls of the rectum 3 times. Patient with ostomy: use stoma site.
6. Confirm swab is not overloaded or underloaded as this can cause false negative or invalid test results.



7. Insert dual swab (still attached to red cap) into tube and firmly close cap. Do not break or cut the shaft.
8. Label specimen and transport to lab per usual process.
9. Remove gloves and perform hand hygiene.

## Use the following links (also included in kit) for patient education:

- [Minnesota Department of Health patient FAQ](#)
- [Wisconsin Department of Health patient FAQ](#)

Patient will remain in Contact Isolation until results come back (1-4 days depending on collection date).