ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
IDPH
PROTECTING HEALTH, IMPROVING LIVES

MEMORANDUM

JB Pritzker, Governor

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Skilled Nursing Facility Acceptance and Care of Patients with Extensively Drug-resistant Organisms (XDRO) – May 2025

Summary and Action Items

1. Admission to licensed facilities should not be denied for residents solely based on a history of infection or colonization with multidrug-resistant organisms (MDROs) or extensively drug-resistant organisms (XDROs), including *Candida auris* (*C. auris*), carbapenem-resistant Enterobacterales (CRE) and *Acinetobacter baumannii* (CRAB), and carbapenemase-producing *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (CP-CRPA).
2. Enhanced barrier precautions (EBP) are the appropriate transmission-based precautions for many residents of skilled nursing facilities with XDROs. Some facilities may also choose to use EBP for other MDROs.
3. Skilled nursing facilities are required to establish an infection prevention and control program (IPCP). This should include policies and procedures for the implementation of EBP.

Background

Multidrug-resistant organisms (MDROs) and extensively drug-resistant organisms (XDROs) are germs that pose a threat to patients or residents in health care settings, including skilled nursing facilities. Strict adherence to infection control practices is critical to prevent the spread of these germs to other residents and staff within a skilled nursing facility. XDROs include *C. auris*, CRE, CRAB, and CP-CRPA.

Communication between facilities regarding a patient or resident's history of infection or colonization with XDROs and other MDROs at the time of transfer is crucial to implementing appropriate precautions. The XDRO registry is one tool that facilitates inter-facility communication. In addition, facilities should consider using an interfacility transfer form (for example, Inter-facility Infection Prevention Transfer Form) to facilitate communication between facilities about a resident's history of infection or colonization with organisms that require EBP or other transmission-based precautions.

The Illinois Department of Public Health has been made aware that some facilities are denying admissions of individuals with a history of infection or colonization with XDROs. Any skilled nursing facility that accepts residents and patients requiring Standard and Transmission-Based Precautions should be prepared to accept residents and patients with MDROs and XDROs. **It is inappropriate to refuse admission of a resident or patient based solely on the presence of an MDRO or XDRO.**

Pursuant to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) regulation, §483.71 (F838), skilled nursing facilities must conduct and document a facility-wide assessment to determine which resources are needed to care for their residents. The results of this assessment must be used in part to establish and update a facility's infection prevention and control policies. If a facility's assessment documents their ability to care for patients with *Clostridioides difficile* using Standard and Transmission-Based Precautions, a similar expectation should be applied to their ability to care for patients with MDROs and XDROs.

Recommendations

- Refer to the IDPH EBP toolkit for guidance on implementing EBP in skilled nursing facilities: toolkit-for-implementing-ppe-mdros-092024.pdf.
- Schedule an Infection Control Assessment and Response (ICAR) visit with your IDPH Regional Infection Control Coordinator. https://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/provider-partner-resources/medical-services/ripp.html.
    - The IDPH RIPP (Regional Infection Prevention Program) is a non-regulatory consultative service staffed by experienced infection preventionists who are available for remote consultation and on-site ICARs to aid facilities in the implementation of best practices in infection prevention. To schedule an ICAR, send an email to DPH.IP@illinois.gov.
- Ensure *all* appropriate facility staff (e.g., infection preventionist, director of nursing, assistant director of nursing, etc.) have access to the XDRO Registry: https://xdro.dph.illinois.gov. It is important for multiple appropriate staff to have access to ensure that staff are always available to check the registry with a new admission. See Gaining Access to the XDRO Registry for step-by-step instructions on signing up for XDRO access.
- Per 77 Ill. Adm. Code 690.1510, skilled nursing facilities are required to query the XDRO registry for every admission in order to implement the appropriate type of transmission-based precautions, including EBP. It is important to check the registry for patients being re-admitted to a skilled nursing facility if a new infection or colonization has been identified.
- Use an interfacility transfer form (for example, Inter-facility Infection Prevention Transfer Form) to facilitate communication between facilities about a resident's history of infection or colonization with organisms that require EBP or other transmission-based precautions.

Contact

IDPH Health Care-Associated Infections and Antimicrobial Resistance Program, XDRO Team: DPH.XDRORegistry@illinois.gov.
IDPH Regional Infection Prevention Program: DPH.IP@Illinois.gov.

Target Audience

Long-term Care Facilities, Local Health Departments, Hospital Infection Preventionists, Infectious Disease Physicians, Hospital Administrators, and Regional Health Offices.

Date Issued

June 25, 2025

Resources

For more information regarding infection control precautions XDROs and CMS regulations, see the following links:

- Use of Transmission-Based Precautions and Room Placement Options for Extensively Drug-Resistant Organisms in Skilled Nursing Facilities: https://dph.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/idph/publications/idph/topics-and-services/prevention-wellness/patient-safety-quality/20230621-transmission-based-precautions.pdf
- A Toolkit for Implementing Personal Protective Equipment in Nursing Homes to Prevent the Spread of Multidrug- and Extensively Drug-Resistant Organisms: https://dph.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/idph/publications/idph/topics-and-

services/prevention-wellness/patient-safety-quality/toolkit-for-implementing-ppe-mdros-092024.pdf

- QSO-24-08-NH Enhanced Barrier Precautions in Nursing Homes: https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-24-08-nh.pdf