What You Need to Know:

Carbapenemase-producing Organisms (CPO)

1) What is a carbapenemase-producing organism (CPO)?
CPOs are a type of bacteria (germs) that have become highly resistant to antibiotics (medicine) that are used to treat bacterial infections.

2) Who is most likely to get a CPO?
Healthy people usually don't get a CPO. Patients staying in a healthcare facility or those who have weak immune systems are at risk to get a CPO. Not everyone who has a CPO gets sick.

3) How are CPOs spread?
CPOs are spread by contact with a person who has a CPO, especially contact with wounds or stool (poop). CPOs are not spread through the air.

4) How can CPOs be prevented from spreading?
Frequent hand washing can help keep CPOs from spreading, along with precautions healthcare staff may take.

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Whenever you need healthcare, even while at home, tell your caregivers that you have a carbapenemase-producing organism.

You should also:

- Tell your doctor if you have been hospitalized in another facility or country.
- Take antibiotics only as prescribed by your doctor.
- Frequently wash your hands with warm water and soap, and insist others around you do the same.

For more information about CPOs, visit the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health website at:

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