Methods. Premoistened swabs were used to culture sink drains, floor drains, and equipment for CPO. Perrectal swabs were ordered monthly for all patients in non-behavioral health wards. Specimens were plated to CRE- and ESBL-selective media, and colonies identified by MALDI-TOF. The presence of the blaKPC gene was confirmed by PCR. When environmental CPO isolates were detected, EVS procedures and practices were reviewed.

Results. In June 2016, blaKPC+ L. adecarboxy- lata colonization in a stem cell transplant recipient. Investigation included 33 cultures collected from sink and floor drains, EVS equipment, and other items. EVS equip- ment, especially mop buckets, were identified as a likely point source due to their use in patient care areas and closets with contaminated floor drains. Among seven mop buckets sampled, one grew blaKPC+ L. adecarboxylata. Whole genome sequencing demonstrated genetic relatedness of the Lecleria isolates. Floor cleaner was changed to a disinfectant solution. Extensive decontamination of 67 EVS closets and equipment was performed urgently. No further patient or environmental cultures have grown blaKPC+ L. adecarboxylata.

Conclusion. The recovery of a highly unusual organism, rarely found in clinical specimens, that was also carrying a blaKPC+ plasmid, allowed us to detect environmen- tal spread of this organism in the hospital. The ability to track this organism using genome sequencing provided strong evidence of the mode of spread, leading to effect- ive remediation. No evidence-based methods exist for remediating drain contamin- ation, which can serve as a potential reservoir for transmission.

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996. Bare Below the Elbows: A Randomized Trial to Determine Whether Wearing Short-Sleeved Coats Reduces the Risk for Pathogen Transmission

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Background. Physician’s white coats are frequently contaminated, but seldom cleaned. Therefore, in the UK, a “bare below the elbows” dress code policy includes a recommendation that personnel wear short sleeves. However, it has not been demon- strated that wearing short sleeves reduces the likelihood of pathogen transmission.

Methods. We conducted a randomized, cross-over trial involving simulated patient care interactions to test the hypothesis that transmission of pathogens occurs less frequently when personnel wear short- vs long-sleeved coats. Healthcare personnel were randomized to wear either long- or short-sleeved white coats while examining simulated patients or the environment.

Results. In one of five (20%) instances of sleeve and/or wrist con- tact, the DNA marker was transferred to the second mannequin. It was also demonstrated that wearing short- vs long-sleeved coats. Healthcare personnel were less likely to include their wrist in handwash- ing between procedures if they were wearing long-sleeved coats.

Conclusion. During simulations of patient care, the sleeve cuff of long-sleeved white coats frequently became contaminated with a viral DNA marker that could be transferred. These results strongly support the recommendation that healthcare per- sonnel wear short sleeves to reduce the risk for pathogen transmission.

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