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Active surveillance for asymptomatic carriers of carbapenemase-producing *Klebsiella pneumoniae* in a hospital setting

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The spread of carbapenemase-producing *Klebsiella pneumoniae* (CPKP) is a challenging public health threat. Early identification and isolation of infected patients and carriers are key measures of control. This study describes a CPKP screening strategy in a tertiary Italian hospital. During the five-month study period, 1687 patients were screened by rectal swabs. Of these, 65 (3.9%) tested positive for CPKP; 5.1% of case contacts tested positive. Screening case contacts appears to be the essential surveillance component for detecting asymptomatic carriers of CPKP. The added value of selective CPKP screening on hospital admission depends on the frequency of carriers among incoming patients.