

MEDIA STATEMENT:  
01 May 2016

## **Allegations of Klebsiela outbreak at Mahatma Gandhi Memorial hospital are alarmist**

KZN Department of Health (KZN DoH) spokesperson, Sam Mkhwanazi said: "The Department has noted with concern an alarmist statement alleging that there has been an outbreak of carbapenem resistant klebsiella pneumonia (CRKP) at Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Hospital.

Surveillance results over the past years have revealed that CRKP has become resident in many of facilities in the world including South Africa.

This organism has been isolated from patients in the private and public sector hospitals and may also be found circulating in communities. Since the beginning of April 2016 until up to the 24th, (CRKP) was isolated from 9 babies at MGMH who were all in the neonatal intensive care unit for conditions that required urgent intervention and intensive monitoring.

Of the 9 babies from whom the organism was cultured, 1 demised due to other conditions not linked to CRKP. This baby was seriously ill on admission to the unit, and the underlying condition was of a nature that required transfer to a tertiary centre (IALCH) where the baby subsequently died.

There have been no new cases with CRKP since 24 April. All other babies who were colonised are doing well.

As part of ongoing measures to curb outbreaks in our hospitals, the KZNDoH embarked on a surveillance study last year which revealed that some babies in our KZN facilities were colonised with CRKP during/soon after birth. The most likely route of transmission was from mother to neonate during birth.

ENDS

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