New Antibiotics Needed to Fight Nightmare Superbug

CRE sickens thousands of Americans each year, but no new classes of drugs to treat it are in clinical development.

Carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE) have been deemed “nightmare bacteria” by CDC because they are so difficult to treat.

As of 2001, CRE was reported in one state. As of 2017, CRE had spread to all 50 states.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention classifies CRE as one of the most urgent bacterial threats.


Of the dozens of antibiotics in clinical development, only 11 have the potential to treat CRE, and none of them are novel.

Novel classes of drugs fight bacteria in new ways compared with antibiotics already available on the market and are necessary to overcome resistance.


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