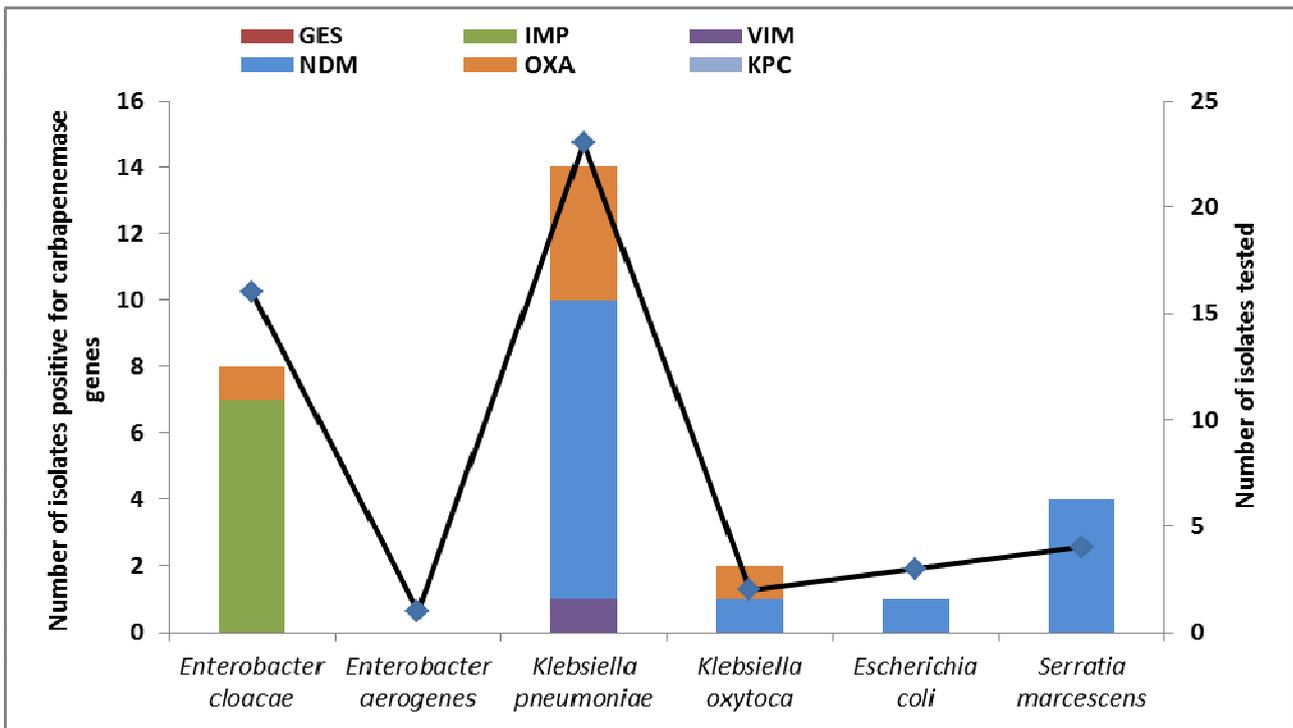


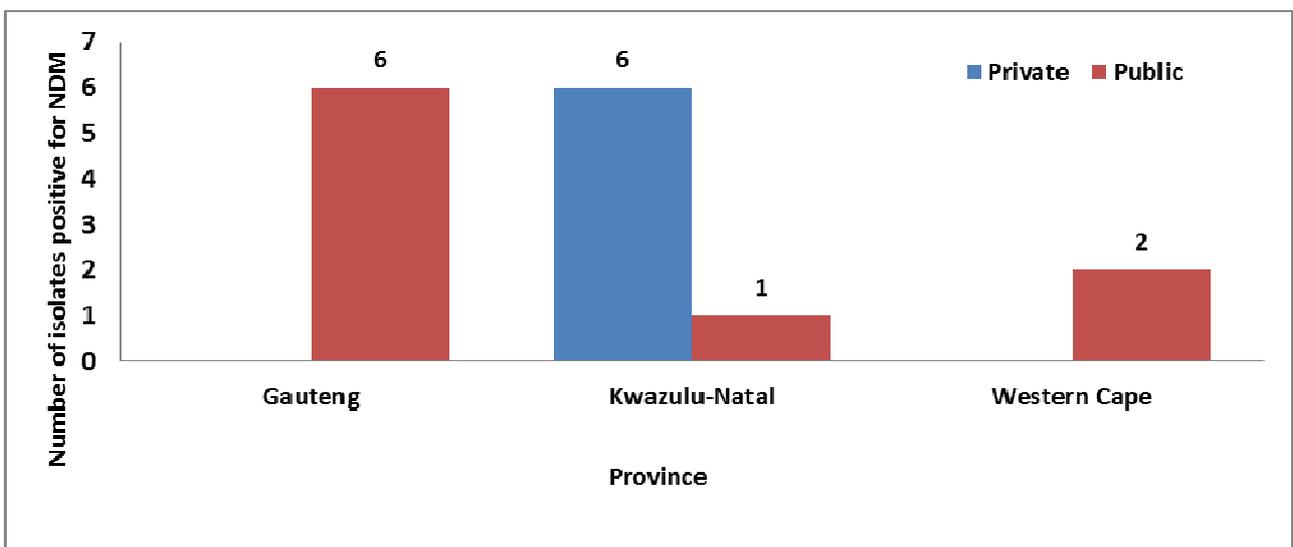
### Update on carbapenemase-producing Enterobacteriaceae (CPE)

The Johannesburg and Cape Town Antimicrobial Resistance Reference Laboratories (AMRRL) of the Centre for Opportunistic, Tropical and Hospital Infections (CO THI) at NICD/NHLS continue to test referred isolates of suspected carbapenemase-producing Enterobacteriaceae (CPE) for the presence of selected carbapenemase genes. For the month of October 2013, a total of 49 isolates was screened and 29 isolates were resistant to one or

more carbapenems, the most common referral isolates being *Klebsiella pneumoniae* (n=23) and *Enterobacter cloacae* (n=16) (Figure 2). In total, 15 NDM-positive isolates (6 from private hospitals and 9 from public hospitals, Figure 3), 6 OXA-positive isolates (5 from private hospitals and 1 from a public hospital), 1 VIM-positive isolate (from a private hospital) and 7 IMP-positive isolates (all from public hospitals) were identified.



**Figure 2. Enterobacteriaceae tested for presence of selected carbapenemase genes (n=49) showing distribution of isolates testing positive (n=29), October 2013, AMRRL (NICD-NHLS)**



**Figure 3. Provincial and healthcare-sector distribution of isolates positive for NDM carbapenemase genes (n=49), October 2013, AMRRL (NICD-NHLS)**

It is important to note that these figures do not represent the current burden of CPEs in South Africa. Given that CPE infections are currently not reportable or notifiable in South Africa, there is no platform for appropriate surveillance reports and consequently no locally representative data is available. This is of major concern, since meaningful data can inform public health policy and highlight priorities for action. Controlling the spread and limiting the impact of CPEs in South Africa will require intensive efforts by both the public and private healthcare sectors going forward.

NHLS and private laboratories are encouraged to submit suspected CPE isolates based on antimicrobial susceptibility testing (AST) criteria to the AMRRL, NICD/NHLS. More information and the case report form (CRF) can be obtained from NICD/NHLS web sites. Please telephone (011) 555 0342/44 or email [ashikas@nicd.ac.za](mailto:ashikas@nicd.ac.za) and [olgap@nicd.ac.za](mailto:olgap@nicd.ac.za) for queries or further information; in Western Cape Province, please email: [colleen.bamford@nhls.ac.za](mailto:colleen.bamford@nhls.ac.za) and [clintonmoodley@yahoo.com](mailto:clintonmoodley@yahoo.com).

**Source:** Centre for Opportunistic, Tropical and Hospital Infection, NICD-NHLS