**STEP 1**
**Day One**
Aseptically, place one 10-μg ertapenem or meropenem disc in 5 ml trypticase soy broth (TSB).
Immediately inoculate the broth with the rectal swab.
Incubate overnight at 35 ± 2°C, ambient air.

**STEP 2**
**Day Two**
Vortex incubated broth culture and subculture 100 μl onto a MacConkey agar plate and streak for isolation.
Incubate overnight at 35 ± 2°C, ambient air.

**STEP 3**
**Day Three**
Examine the MacConkey agar for lactose-fermenting (pink-red) colonies. More than one colony morphology may represent different species of Enterobacteriaceae.

It may be necessary to subculture representative colonies of each morphology type to non-selective media for isolation and/or for susceptibility testing.

Screen representative isolated colonies using a phenotypic test for carbapenemase production, such as the modified Hodge test (MHT) or test for carbapenem susceptibility using a standardized method and follow the CLSI guidelines for identification of carbapenemase-producing Enterobacteriaceae.

**STEP 4**
**Day Four**
For CRE and/or MHT-positive isolates, perform species-level identification.

Source: 2012 CRE Toolkit—Guidance for Control of Carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE)