



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

WASHINGTON, DC 20201



NOV - 7 2012

Michael A. Carome, M.D.
Sidney M. Wolfe, M.D.
Public Citizen's Health Research Group
1600 20th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20009

Dear Drs. Carome and Wolfe:

The Secretary has forwarded to our office your letter dated September 10, 2012, in which you requested that the Department arrange for an independent review of the circumstances surrounding the outbreak of *Klebsiella pneumoniae carbapenemase* at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Clinical Center. You enumerated more than ten specific questions relating to NIH's decisions on reporting to the public, to incoming Clinical Center patients, and to public health authorities in the State and at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Our office is currently reviewing the questions and concerns addressed in your letter. We will follow up with you after we determine appropriate action.

We appreciate your interest. If you have any questions about this response, please contact Erin Bliss, Director of External Affairs at 202-205-9523 or Erin.Bliss@oig.hhs.gov.

Sincerely,

Daniel R. Levinson
Inspector General