Candida auris (*C. auris*)

What is *Candida auris*?

Candida auris (*C. auris*) is an emerging fungal pathogen that causes invasive infections, is drug resistant, persists in the environment, and is transmitted in health care settings.[4] *C. auris* can cause outbreaks in health care facilities and is difficult to identify with standard laboratory methods which may lead to the patient getting the wrong treatment.[1]

The Florida Department of Health is actively identifying cases of *C. auris* in South Florida.[4] While *C. auris* has been introduced from abroad, most Florida cases have resulted from local transmission in health care settings, especially in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities providing ventilator care.[4]

Drug-Resistant Candida auris

Over 1,000 cases reported Nationally[2]

Over 100 cases reported in Florida[4]

Urgent threat[2]

How is *C. auris* transmitted?

- Person-to-person– hand carriage from health care personnel
- Contact with body fluids-drainage from wound, urine, stool, saliva, blood
- Contaminated medical equipment– bed rails, bedside tables, IV poles, catheters, etc.

Who is at risk for infection or colonization from *C. auris*?

- People who have had medical care overseas
- Recent stay in a nursing home
- Indwelling devices
- Recent surgery, diabetes, broad-spectrum antibiotic and antifungal use

*Infections have been found in patients of all ages, from preterm infants to the elderly.

How can *C. auris* transmission be prevented?

- Perform hand hygiene and wear appropriate personal protective equipment
- Keep patients with an MDRO in a single room; cohort patients with the same MDRO if a single room is not available
- Ensure effective cleaning of patient rooms and medical equipment
- Promote antimicrobial stewardship
- Follow standard and contact precautions or enhanced barrier precautions (depending on the situation).

If you have additional questions, please contact the Florida Department of Health, Health Care-Associated Infection Prevention Program at:

(e) HAI_Program@FLHealth.gov
(p) 850-766-0764

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[1]Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). *C. auris* Fact Sheet. hwww.cdc.gov/fungal/diseases/candidiasis/pdf/Candida_auris_508.pdf
[2]CDC. (2019). Antibiotic Resistance Threats Report. www.cdc.gov/drugresistance/pdf/threats-report/candida-508.pdf
[3]CDC. (2020). *Candida auris*. www.cdc.gov/fungal/candida-auris/index.html
[4]Florida Department of Health. (2020). Candida auris Update: Information for Clinicians and Laboratorians.