

DISCHARGE INFORMATION FOR *CANDIDA AURIS* PATIENTS RETURNING HOME

Candida auris (*C. auris*) is a fungus that can cause serious infections that are hard to treat. Many of the medications that are used to treat *C. auris* often do not work. The fungus is known to resist the different treatment options that are supposed to help you get better.

Patients can also have this germ and show no signs or symptoms of sickness, this is called colonization. Colonized patients can spread this germ to other patients and to the care environment. There is currently no treatment for patients colonized with *C. auris* and re-testing patients for *C. auris* is not recommended.

C. auris is more likely to affect patients who require frequent medical care at hospitals and nursing homes. These patients often have many risk factors, such as weakened immune systems, use of antibiotics, or having medical devices like tubes or catheters going into their body. Your family and household members who are healthy have a low chance of getting *C. auris*.

CARE AT HOME

- Infections can be prevented or controlled through appropriate personal hygiene by regularly washing the body and hair with soap/shampoo and water.
- Individuals taking care of patients with *C. auris* should wash their hands or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer before and after providing care or touching medical devices.
- Hand hygiene (including hand washing with soap and water or using hand sanitizer) is particularly important in preventing the spread of this germ to others if the household caregiver assists multiple household members with routine care at home.
- Individuals taking care of patients with *C. auris* should also consider wearing disposable gloves when they have contact with a patient's wounds or body fluids, such as blood, stool, urine, and vomit; always perform hand hygiene before and after glove use.

Tell your health care providers, including any home health care workers or aides, that you have *C. auris*. Actions they will need to take to prevent spreading *C. auris* include: cleaning their hands, wearing a gown, wearing gloves, and properly disinfecting any reusable equipment that was used during care.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO WHEN YOU RECEIVE MEDICAL CARE AT A HOSPITAL, DIALYSIS CENTER OR OTHER HEALTH CARE FACILITY?

It is important to carry this information with your medical paperwork. **Please show this information to your health care team whenever you receive medical care** in an emergency department, hospital, dialysis center, nursing home or other health care facility. **It is important for health care facilities and providers to know who has *C. auris* and take steps to prevent it from spreading to other patients.**

INFORMATION FOR YOUR HEALTH CARE PROVIDER

CANDIDA AURIS MEDICAL ALERT

Patient Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Dear Health Care Worker,

Candida auris (*C. auris*) is a fungal pathogen that can cause severe infections among vulnerable patients, including patients who require hospitalization or long-term care. It can be easily spread within health care settings through direct or indirect contact with contaminated medical devices/equipment, environmental surfaces, or individuals colonized or infected with *C. auris*. There is currently no effective treatment for *C. auris* colonization and re-testing carriers for clearance is not recommended.

When caring for a patient colonized and/or infected with *C. auris*:

- Place the patient on Contact Precautions and in a private room (if available).
- Thoroughly clean and disinfect the patient's room and medical equipment/devices with EPA-registered disinfectants that have an effective claim against *C. auris* (List P).
- Use as much dedicated and/or disposable equipment and devices as possible.
- Use alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water to wash your hands at all key moments for hand hygiene.
- Flag the patient's medical record to indicate their positive *C. auris* status and the continued need for Contact Precautions during all future visits and admissions.
- Ensure any health care facilities where the patient is transferred to is notified of their positive *C. auris* status verbally and in writing. The New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) Novel MDRO Transfer Cover Sheet (accessible through the QR code below) can be used to communicate the patient's positive CPO status to the receiving facility.



Contact your Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Department for more information. If the IPC Department needs additional guidance, they should contact NJDOH at DOH.CDS.HAIAR.EPI@doh.nj.gov and notify your local health department, which can be found at www.nj.gov/health/lh/community/.