

Candida auris (*Candidozyma auris*) Education and Training for Local Health Departments

Session 2: Introduction to Case Investigations

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Overview

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C. auris Epidemiologic Assessment

Candida auris (*C. auris*) Case Investigation

Background Information

- *C. auris* is primarily a healthcare-associated infection (HAI)
 - Often identified among very sick patients admitted to high acuity healthcare facilities or residing in long-term care facilities
- Information needed for public health investigation **is obtained from the healthcare facilities** where a case patient received care – **not from the case patient**

C. auris Case Investigation Background Information (Continued)

- *C. auris* HAI investigations focus on:
 - The identifying healthcare facility
 - Additional healthcare facilities where the case patient received care 30 days* prior to specimen collection
 - Additional healthcare facilities that did not implement appropriate precautions for the case patient following their positive specimen collection

*Note: there are exceptions that may expand this traceback period

Exceptions to the 30-Day Traceback and Investigation Period for *C. auris* Cases

- The 30-day traceback and investigation period may need to be further expanded if:
 - Epidemiologic evidence suggests earlier acquisition of the organism, for example:
 - Patient screened negative on admission, 60 days before the positive specimen was collected during the same hospitalization

OR

- Epidemiologic links to other cases or outbreaks are identified that occurred >30 days prior to positive specimen collection

What Needs to be Investigated?

Local health departments are responsible for investigating:

- *C. auris* cases identified in NJ among NJ residents, AND
- NJ healthcare facility exposures where *C. auris* cases are identified or have received care, **regardless of the case patient's state of residence**

If the case patient is a resident of NJ but was identified to have *C. auris* at an out-of-state facility:

- No further investigation is needed unless the case patient received healthcare at a facility in NJ in the 30 days prior to positive specimen collection or after positive specimen collection without precautions implemented

Jurisdictional Roles

- Local health departments (LHDs) with jurisdiction over the case patient's primary address are responsible for conducting the **case patient investigation**
 - Priority 3: complete within 5 business days
- LHDs with jurisdiction over the healthcare facilities where the case patient received care before, during, and following positive specimen collection are responsible for conducting the **healthcare facility exposure investigation(s)**
 - Priority 3: complete within 5 business days
 - *C. auris* cases identified **among out-of-state residents** still need public health investigation and response at the healthcare facilities in NJ where the case patient received care

Jurisdictional Roles (Continued)

Investigation Type	Patient's State of Residency	Responsible Entity
Case Patient Investigation	NJ	LHD with jurisdiction over the patient's primary address
Case Patient Investigation	Out-of-state	NJDOH
Healthcare Facility Exposure Investigation	NJ	LHD with jurisdiction over the healthcare facility
Healthcare Facility Exposure Investigation	Out-of-state	LHD with jurisdiction over the healthcare facility

Case Patient Investigation Components

- Ensure the case meets confirmatory criteria
- Categorize the case subtype and status
- Determine the healthcare facility where the case was identified
- Identify and document healthcare facilities where the case patient received healthcare services in the 30 days (minimum) prior to positive specimen collection
- Identify and document healthcare facilities where the case patient received care between positive specimen collection and notification of positive results
- Request laboratory submission of clinical isolates (if indicated)

Case Patient Investigation Components (Continued)

- Collect and enter required data elements into CDRSS
- Submit all identified healthcare facilities as investigation addresses associated with the case in CDRSS
- Notify LHDs with jurisdiction over impacted healthcare facilities requiring exposure investigations
- Close out case report status within CDRSS upon completion of all healthcare facility exposure investigations

Healthcare Facility Exposure Investigation Components

- Contact each implicated facility to confirm prior/current admission of the case patient and notify them of the positive *C. auris* result
- Provide setting-appropriate infection prevention and control recommendations for *C. auris*
- Obtain and document information about the case patient's admission*
 - Transmission-Based Precautions implemented and corresponding dates
 - Units and rooms of admission
 - Roommates
 - Use of shared equipment or devices

*Can be obtained most efficiently using the *C. auris* Epidemiologic Assessment

Healthcare Facility Exposure Investigation Components (Continued)

- Determine disinfectants used, EPA registration numbers and if utilized disinfectants are effective against *C. auris* (i.e., EPA List P)
- Collect and document the disease specific questionnaire, risk factor and clinical status information within CDRSS
- Provide information obtained from the facility to NJDOH for review and determination of next steps for the facility
- If/when colonization screening is recommended by NJDOH, provide screening instructions and obtain documentation for screening
- Complete the Facility Exposure Investigation Status and Updates section within CDRSS

***C. auris* Epidemiologic Assessment**

- A standardized data collection tool that obtains and documents information about the case patient's admission to a facility
- Collects the most pertinent information to:
 - Identify potential healthcare facility exposures
 - Assess epidemiologic links between cases
 - Determine necessary next steps for a facility
- Fillable PDF must be completed digitally using Adobe Acrobat
- It is recommended that LHDs ask each implicated facility in their jurisdiction to complete and return the assessment for the case patient within two business days

Determining Jurisdictional Roles: Example 1

- Tony Pickles is a resident of New Brunswick (Middlesex County) and is admitted to an acute care hospital (ACH) in New Brunswick for one week
 - Following hospitalization, Tony Pickles is discharged to a ventilator-capable skilled nursing facility (vSNF) in Matawan (Monmouth County), where he is tested for *C. auris* colonization and is positive
1. Which LHD is responsible for conducting the case investigation?
Middlesex County LHD
 2. Which LHD is responsible for conducting the healthcare facility exposure investigation at the ACH? **Middlesex County LHD**
 3. Which LHD is responsible for conducting the healthcare facility exposure investigation at the vSNF? **Monmouth County LHD**

Determining Jurisdictional Roles: Example 2

- Chucky Finnegan is a resident of a nursing home in Wayne Township and is admitted to an ACH in Pequannock Township.
 - During his hospitalization, a blood culture is collected and detects *C. auris*
 - Before the positive blood culture result comes back, Chucky is transferred to a long-term acute care hospital (LTACH) in Rahway
1. Which LHD is responsible for conducting the case investigation? **Wayne LHD**
 2. Which LHD is responsible for conducting the healthcare facility exposure investigation at the nursing home? **Wayne LHD**
 3. Which LHD is responsible for conducting the healthcare facility exposure investigation at the ACH? **Pequannock LHD**
 4. Which LHD is responsible for conducting the healthcare facility exposure investigation at the LTACH? **Rahway LHD**

Determining Jurisdictional Roles: Example 3

- Ruby Cooliani is a resident of New York and is admitted to an LTACH in Dover Township from an ACH in New York City
 - During admission to the LTACH, Ruby has a respiratory culture conducted that identifies *C. auris*
1. Which LHD is responsible for conducting the case investigation? **NJDOH**
 2. Which LHD is responsible for conducting the healthcare facility exposure investigation at the LTACH? **Dover LHD**
 3. Which LHD is responsible for conducting the healthcare facility exposure investigation at the ACH? **NYSDOH**

Contact Us

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Websites:

- https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/hai_ar.shtml
- <https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/cauris.shtml>
- <https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/ar.shtml>



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