

## ***Candida (Candidozyma) auris* Infection Prevention & Control Recommendations for Nursing Homes**

The following infection prevention and control recommendations should be provided to nursing homes upon identification of a confirmed *Candida (Candidozyma) auris* (*C. auris*) case. Recommendations are the same regardless of case subtype (i.e., clinical case vs. screening case).

### **Case Patient Still Admitted to the Facility**

1. Transmission-Based Precautions
  - a. Immediately place the patient on Enhanced Barrier Precautions or Contact Precautions (if indicated).
  - b. Contact Precautions should be utilized for residents with *C. auris* if there are excretions or secretions that cannot be contained, or there is another diagnosis/condition (e.g., scabies) that requires the use of Contact Precautions.
  - c. Enhanced Barrier Precautions should be utilized for residents with *C. auris* colonization or infection that do not otherwise require Contact Precautions.
2. Room placement
  - a. If there are other residents with *C. auris* admitted to the facility, residents with *C. auris* can be placed in a shared room.
  - b. Private rooms are NOT required for residents on Enhanced Barrier Precautions due to current or prior history of *C. auris*.
  - c. Within long-term care facilities, private rooms should be prioritized for residents with acute infection with a communicable disease (e.g., influenza, COVID-19, hepatitis A) and residents that require Contact Precautions.
  - d. If private rooms are not readily available and the case patient cannot be placed in a shared room with another resident that has current or prior history of *C. auris*, place the resident in a shared room with otherwise healthy residents that have few or no risk factors for MDRO acquisition (e.g., tracheostomy tubes, mechanical ventilators, central lines, central venous catheters, open wounds).
  - e. Where possible, avoid placing residents with *C. auris* in the same room as residents without *C. auris* that have indwelling or invasive devices (e.g., tracheostomy tubes, mechanical ventilators, central lines, central venous catheters), open wounds, or immunocompromising conditions.
3. Cleaning and disinfectant product(s) use
  - a. Ensure daily and terminal environmental cleaning and disinfection is conducted utilizing a product effective against *C. auris* from EPA List P. If a List P disinfectant is not available, utilize a product from EPA List K.
    - i. Perform thorough daily and terminal cleaning and disinfection of the resident's room(s) and other areas where they receive care (e.g., physical therapy, radiology).
    - ii. Track the resident's prior room assignments and ensure thorough cleaning and disinfection with an effective product occurs in those rooms and in common areas of the unit.
  - b. Ensure routine cleaning and disinfection of patient care equipment, devices, supply carts and workstations on wheels is conducted utilizing a product effective against *C. auris* from EPA List P. If a List P disinfectant is not available, utilize a product from EPA List K.

- i. Reinforce cleaning and disinfection of mobile equipment and devices that are shared between patients (e.g., glucometers, temperature probes, blood pressure cuffs, ultrasound machines, nursing carts, wound scissors, physical therapy equipment) after each and every use.
    - c. Review and re-educate staff on the appropriate contact time and dilution instructions (if applicable).
4. Equipment provision and storage of supplies
  - a. Provide the resident with as much dedicated and/or disposable equipment as possible.
  - b. Store dedicated wound care supplies in the resident's room if/when possible. Dispose of any unused wound care supplies dedicated to this resident after the conclusion of their stay at your facility.
5. Minimizing foot traffic
  - a. To the extent possible, have staff entering multiple rooms ('rounding') enter the room of the *C. auris*+ resident last.
6. Hand hygiene
  - a. Increase emphasis on hand hygiene. Alcohol-based hand sanitizer (ABHS) is effective against *C. auris* and is the preferred method for cleaning hands when they are not visibly soiled.
  - b. Increase hand hygiene audits on units where residents with *C. auris* are placed. Consider re-educating healthcare personnel on hand hygiene through an in-service or retraining, especially if audits demonstrate low adherence to recommended hand hygiene practices.
7. Communication
  - a. When transferring a resident with *C. auris* to another service/department/unit within the same facility, notify the receiving service/department/unit of the resident's *C. auris* status, the necessary Transmission-Based Precautions, and the appropriate disinfectant product(s) to utilize.
  - b. When transferring a resident with *C. auris* to another healthcare facility, notify the receiving facility of the resident's *C. auris* status, the necessary Transmission-Based Precautions, and the appropriate disinfectant product(s) to utilize.
  - c. Flag the resident's medical record to alert healthcare personnel of the resident's *C. auris* status/history and to implement recommended infection control measures in case of readmission.

## Case Patient No Longer Admitted to the Facility

1. Flag the resident's medical record to alert healthcare personnel of the resident's *C. auris* status/history and to instruct providers to implement Enhanced Barrier Precautions or Contact Precautions (if indicated) immediately upon readmission.
2. Track the resident's prior room assignments and ensure thorough cleaning and disinfection occurs in those rooms and in other areas where the resident received care (e.g., physical therapy) utilizing a product effective against *C. auris* from EPA List P. If a List P disinfectant is not available, utilize a product from EPA List K.
3. Perform thorough cleaning and disinfection of shared equipment and devices on units where the resident was previously admitted utilizing a product effective against *C. auris* from EPA List P. If a List P disinfectant is not available, utilize a product from EPA List K.