



Candida auris and EMS

Candida auris (*C. auris*) is a highly invasive type of yeast that spreads easily in healthcare settings. Discovered in 2009, *C. auris* is an emerging global threat. Transmission rates are high due to its ability to live on surfaces for weeks. *C. auris* affects vulnerable populations, including those with invasive medical devices, chronic wounds, and recipients of complex care. Prevalence has increased from just individuals who reside in long term care facilities to those from home.

Symptoms of *C. auris* vary based on location of infection and can range from asymptomatic colonization to fungemia (fungus in the blood). Treatment options are very limited due to the growing resistance of *C. auris* to antifungal medicines and lack of available decolonization methods.

ACTION ITEMS FOR EMS:

- Request transfer documentation when transporting from any long-term care facility and ask about communicable diseases
- Hand hygiene
- Contact isolation – Gown and Gloves highly encouraged
- Notify the ED of any known or suspected cases of infections or colonization of *C. auris* or other communicable diseases, whether information comes from the patient, the facility, or additional information provided by dispatch.
- Patients who have *C. auris* infection or colonization should not wait in public waiting areas or hallways, therefore placement in triage would not be appropriate.
- Disinfection of equipment used in patient care and vehicle with EPA List P disinfectant.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

CONTACT

For questions, contact a hospital EMS Coordinator or your local health department.

ONLINE RESOURCES

<https://www.cdc.gov/candida-auris/hcp/clinical-overview/index.html>

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/epas-registered-antimicrobial-products-effective-against-candida-auris-list>