

April 6, 2023

Re: Nursing Home Acceptance of *Candida auris* (*C. auris*) Colonized Residents

Dear Nursing Home Staff,

Thank you for your interest and concerns regarding *Candida auris* (*C. auris*) which is an emerging fungus first detected in Tennessee in 2022. Though *C. auris* is a serious threat, nursing home residents can be safely admitted and cared for in nursing homes regardless of their colonization status or pending test results. A positive colonization screen, or an unknown *C. auris* status, is not justification for denial of admission.

Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs 0720-18-.03 details infection control conditions required for nursing homes including the prevention of communicable diseases. Denial of admission on the grounds of communicable disease status may be grounds for complaint due to discrimination or inappropriate infection control procedures (see [R. & Regs 0720-18-.03](#)). Tennessee's Healthcare-Associated Infections and Antimicrobial Resistance Program (HAI/AR) is able to provide free on-site infection prevention consults to assist your nursing home in ensuring effective infection control practices are in place at your facility.

C. auris colonized residents, or those awaiting screening results, can be safely managed utilizing contact precautions or enhanced barrier precautions as detailed in CDC's Strategies for Prevention and Response to Novel and Targeted Multi-Drug Resistant Organisms (MDROs), which can be found [here](#). Disinfectant products from the [EPAs List P](#) or [EPA List K](#) are effective for daily and terminal cleaning and disinfection procedures.

If a nursing home is considering requiring a *C. auris* colonization screen on admission, HAI/AR can provide that nursing home with *C. auris* testing supplies free of charge, including specimen transportation. Testing at the state public health lab can be completed within 48 hours of receiving samples. Whilst a nursing home is awaiting results, a resident can be safely cared for at the nursing home. A hospital stay should not be extended for a resident due to pending *C. auris* status or for positive *C. auris* colonization.

The HAI/AR program will be proactive in engaging with all facility types, including nursing homes, to discuss safe ways to care for residents colonized with *C. auris* or those being transferred without a known *C. auris* status. To arrange an infection prevention consult or a *C. auris* admission testing strategy at your nursing home, please contact HAI.Health@tn.gov or call (615) 741- 7247 and request HAI.

We thank you again for all you do to safeguard resident wellbeing. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to one of HAI/AR's Infection Preventionists or any HAI/AR team member.

Sincerely,



Christopher Wilson, MD, MPH
Medical Director
Healthcare-Associated Infections and Antimicrobial Resistance Program