Candida auris (C. auris) (Candidozyma auris)

Infection Prevention and Control Fact Sheet for patients and carers

NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde

What is Candida auris?

Candida is a family of fungi (yeasts) that can live on the skin and inside the human body.

Candida auris (C. auris) is less common than other types of candida e.g. those that can cause thrush.

Some people can be carriers of C. auris without realising it as they have no symptoms and are not unwell.

Sometimes, it can get into the body during medical treatments like surgery, or when things like drips or catheters are put in. They can enter through wounds or into the bloodstream.

Most infections caused by C. auris are minor, but occasionally they can become more serious.

C. auris is often resistant to antifungal treatments, which means that the medications that are designed to kill the fungus and stop infections do not work.

Information about C. auris screening

By knowing who is carrying C. auris, we can make sure that appropriate measures are put in place to reduce the risk of spread.

You have or will be screened for C. auris as you have either been admitted directly from a hospital outside of the UK or you have tested positive for another bacteria called Carbapenemase Producing Enterobacteriaceae (CPE).

A member of the healthcare team will ask for your permission to take swabs from different parts of your body to test for C. auris. This will include your nose, groin and axilla, but may also include other sites. You will be cared for in a single side room while we are awaiting the results.

What will happen if my test results are positive?

If C. auris is detected in your screening swabs the staff will care for you in a single room during your hospital stay. If you need to use a shared toilet and, or shower room, staff will advise you on this. If you have an infection caused by C auris, your healthcare team will decide if you need treatment.

How does it spread?

As well as staying in your single room, it is important that you avoid touching any dressings, broken skin or medical devices such as urinary catheters or intravenous (IV) drips. If someone has C. auris on their hands, it can be transferred to other people and objects that they touch. One of the best things you can do to prevent the risk of onward spread is to wash your hands with soap and water regularly including after using the toilet. You can also use alcohol based hand rub available. You should also avoid sharing items such as food and drinks or newspapers or magazines with other patients in the ward.

What precautions should visitors take?

C. auris does not usually cause infections in healthy people. However, visitors should wash their hands when entering and leaving your single room or bed area and use the alcohol hand rub available when entering and leaving the ward.

What happens after I go home?

There are no special measures you need to follow when you go home. If you are re-admitted to hospital at any time you should tell hospital staff that it is likely you will need to be cared for in a single room.

For more information you or your carer can speak to the healthcare team looking after you.