

MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Local Health Departments, Regional Offices of the Illinois Department of Public Health, Infection Control Practitioners, Infectious Disease Physicians, Laboratorians, Physicians, Hospitals

**FROM:** Illinois Department of Public Health Communicable Disease Control Section, Division of Patient Safety and Quality, and Division of Laboratories

**DATE:** June 30, 2016

**SUBJECT:** CDC Clinical Alert: Global emergence of invasive infections caused by the multidrug-resistant yeast, *Candida auris*

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The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) are alerting healthcare facilities, providers, and laboratories to be on the lookout for *Candida auris* in patients.

*C. auris*, an emerging multidrug-resistant yeast, is causing invasive healthcare-associated infections with high mortality, and has high potential to cause outbreaks in healthcare facilities. Some isolates have demonstrated elevated minimum inhibitory concentrations to all three major antifungal classes, including azoles, echinocandins, and polyenes, indicating that treatment options would be limited. *C. auris* is difficult to identify from other more common types of *Candida* and could be misidentified as another yeast when relying on traditional biochemical laboratory methods; **specialized methods for identification are required.** (See [link](#) below for more information.)

**Please read CDC's recommendations for identifying and managing patients with *C. auris*, including laboratory diagnosis, infection control (including single patient room with standard and contact precautions), and environmental cleaning recommendations.** This information is available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/fungal/diseases/candidiasis/candida-auris-alert.html>.

**Laboratories**

Identification of *C. auris* requires special laboratory tests that use molecular methods. *C. haemulonii* isolates and other isolates from clinical specimens that cannot be identified beyond *Candida spp.* by conventional methods can be forwarded through state public health laboratories to CDC for further characterization. Please contact your local health department to obtain authorization prior to submitting a specimen to the IDPH laboratory.

**Reporting**

**Healthcare facilities/providers that suspect or have confirmed they have a patient with *C. auris* infection, laboratories identifying *C. auris* isolates, or laboratories requesting CDC testing of clinical specimens that cannot be identified beyond *Candida spp.* should contact the local health department.** Local health departments should notify IDPH Communicable Disease Control Section at (217)-782-2016.