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| Screening for *Candida auris* |
| Information for patients |

What is *Candida auris*?

*Candida auris* (also called *C. auris*) is an uncommon fungus that can cause serious infections. In most cases patients who carry the fungus on their body do not get sick from it, but sometimes it can lead to serious bloodstream, wound and ear infections.

*C. auris* can also cause problems in hospitals and nursing homes as it can spread from one patient to another or from nearby objects. *C. auris* is also often resistant to medicines, making it very difficult to treat.

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) recommends testing patients who may have come in contact with *C. auris* to see if they are carrying this fungus. This allows healthcare providers to know who is carrying the fungus and take steps to prevent it from spreading to other people.

## Why am I being screened?

You may have come in contact with *C. auris* while you were in this or another healthcare facility. To keep the fungus from spreading, we are testing patients to see if they are now carrying the fungus.

In most cases, patients carry the fungus somewhere on their body without it causing any symptoms or an infection. This is called colonisation. People who are colonised with *C. auris* may not know and can pass the fungus to another person. It can also spread via equipment that has been shared between patients or through contamination of the environment.

Fortunately, most people who carry *C. auris* do not get sick from it. Getting tested for *C. auris* will help prevent the spread of this fungus.

## How is the screening done?

The nurse or doctor will wipe or rub a cotton swab on the skin near your armpits and the area where your leg joins your body (groin). The test is not painful.

The swab will be sent to a lab, who send your doctor the results. If the test shows you are carrying the fungus, your nurse or doctor will talk to you about the results and next steps.

You can choose not to be tested. Talk to your nurse or doctor if you have questions or concerns.

## Waiting for the results

While waiting for the result of the screening test you may be placed into a single room and staff will wear gowns and gloves whenever they enter your room in order to protect other patients.

Your family and visitors do not need to take any special precautions, other than performing hand hygiene whenever they enter and leave your room. This is because healthy people are at a lower risk from
*C. auris.*

## What happens if the result is positive?

Your doctor will provide more specific information regarding any treatment you may need. You will be cared for in a single room during your hospital admissions and staff will wear gowns and gloves. It will be important to tell any other healthcare providers that you have *C. auris.* Take your discharge summary with you if you are admitted to another hospital.

## Where can I get more information?

For information about screening for *C. auris*, contact the infection control unit at the hospital or see the information sheet for patients on the [DHHS website](https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/infection-control): <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/infection-control>.

To receive this publication in an accessible format phone Communicable Disease Prevention and Control on 1300 651 160, using the National Relay Service
13 36 77 if required, or email infectious.diseases@dhhs.vic.gov.au

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