

## Candida auris (C. auris): Screening and Specimen Collection

**Background:** *C. auris* is an emerging fungal pathogen that can be transmitted between patients in healthcare settings through contaminated equipment, environmental surfaces, or hands of healthcare personnel. Identifying persons colonized with *C. auris* is key in containing spread and the [California Department of Public Health \(CDPH\)](#) recommends screening patients from higher risk locations.

**Which patients should be screened for C. auris?** Those transferred from long term acute care, skilled nursing facilities with ventilator units, and facilities in Nevada.

**Isolation:** No isolation is required for a pending test. Positive screen → initiation of Contact isolation

**APeX Order:** Provider orders *C. auris* by PCR screening on admission for patients meeting criteria. Examples of the order from the Kardex/Handoff report and Brain view:

**Lab Orders**  
(From admission to next 72h)

Start  
08/17/23 1555


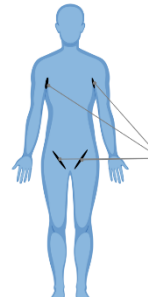
**Candida Auris by PCR** Once, Routine Collect  
Status: Needs to be Collected  
Class: Unit Collect  
References: [UCSF Lab Manual](#)  
Question Answer  
Container details Skin swab, urine, bal, or sputum  
Specimen Site bilateral axillae and groin

1500

1503 Collect Candida auris by PCR Collect

Surveillance test for Infection Prevention / Department of...

### Specimen Collection:

Test Kit	Collection Instructions
<p><b>eSwab = flocked swab with liquid amies medium</b> (PMM # 45258; same kit as MSRA testing)</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Obtain the <i>C. auris</i> PCR specimen prior to use of CHG therapy, when possible</li> <li>• One swab, four locations (right and left axillae &amp; groin):</li> </ul> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Swab axillae:</b> Firmly swipe back and forth 3-5 times per axilla, where the arm meets the body</li> <li>2. <b>Swab groin:</b> With the same swab used on the axilla, firmly swipe back and forth 3-5 times per groin, along the crease in the skin where the leg meets the pelvic region</li> <li>3. Place swab in the media all the way to tube bottom</li> <li>4. <b>Write “Axilla and Groin” on the specimen label</b></li> </ol> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;">  <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; margin-left: 10px;"> <p>Swab right and left axillae &amp; groin with a single swab</p> </div> </div>

References: [UCSF HEIP Candida auris Guidance and Resources](#); [UCSF Laboratory Manual Test Menu: Candida auris](#)

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