

CANDIDA AURIS SCREENING

What is new?

UCSF Health, including the adult services and the Benioff Children’s Hospitals Oakland and San Francisco, will begin routine *C. auris* screening of inpatients transferred from high-risk healthcare settings on 10/11/23.

Why are we screening patients?

C. auris is an emerging fungus that can cause serious infections, is often resistant to some or all major classes of antifungal agents and has characteristics that facilitate patient-to-patient spread in healthcare facilities.

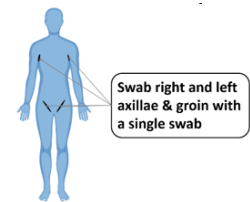
The California Department of Public Health recommends *C. auris* screening for patients transferred from high-risk facilities because early detection and initiation of Contact Isolation are effective strategies for limiting the spread of *C. auris* in healthcare facilities.

What are the high-risk facilities?

The high-risk facilities are long-term acute care hospitals, skilled nursing facilities with ventilator units, and any healthcare facility in Nevada. Patient screening criteria may change over time based on evolving *C. auris* epidemiology in Northern California.

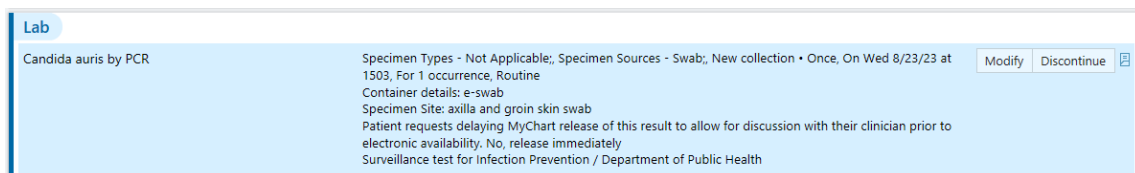
How do you screen for *C. auris*?

C. auris screening involved swabbing skin of bilateral axillae and groin areas and performing a PCR. Instructions have been distributed to nursing staff.

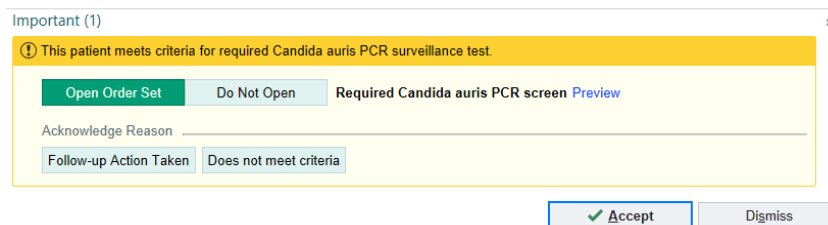


How will the *C. auris* screening process work?

Patients from any high-risk facilities transferred and requiring admission at any UCSF facility will be identified by the Transfer Center or during Emergency Department registration. This will generate automatic inclusion of an order for *Candida auris* PCR screening in the patient’s admission orders.



If high-risk transfer information is not available in time to generate automatic inclusion in admission orders, a BPA will prompt providers to order a *C. auris* PCR screen.



Do I need to place the patient on isolation pending the *C. auris* results?

No special isolation is required while test results are pending. Positive *C. auris* PCR results will automatically generate a *C. auris* flag and an order for Contact Isolation in APeX.

What if the patient has questions?

Please refer the patient to the [CDPH](#) and [CDC](#) tip sheets (below) for additional information.

What if the patient refuses *C. auris* screening?

Please continue to review the rationale for *C. auris* screening with the patient. No special isolation is required if the patient refuses screening.

What if I have additional questions?

- Visit the UCSF Hospital Epidemiology and Infection Prevention (HEIP) [Candida auris website](#)
- UCSF Candida auris: Screening & Specimen Collection: [Here](#)
- CDPH *Candida auris* website <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/Pages/Candida-auris.aspx#>
- CDC *Candida auris* website <https://www.cdc.gov/fungal/candida-auris/index.html>
- Contact us: [Here](#)