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Event: *Candidozyma auris* (*Candida auris*) - updated guidance for acute healthcare settings.

Notified by: AMR & HCAI Division, UK Health Security Agency

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IRP Level: Standard

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Instructions for Cascade

Please cascade as routinely to the below groups:

- UKHSA Private Office Groups
- UKHSA Health Protection in Regions Directorate:
 - UKHSA Field Services
 - UKHSA Health Protection Teams (HPTs) including UKHSA Regional Deputy Directors
 - UKHSA Lab Management Teams
- UKHSA Regional Communications
- Generic inbox for each of the Devolved Administrations
- Inboxes for each of the Crown Dependencies
- DHSC CMO (*excluding internal UKHSA briefing notes*)
- OHID Regional Directors of Public Health
- National NHSE EPRR
- NHSE National Operations Centre

Additionally, this briefing note should be cascaded as below:

- **Devolved Administrations** to cascade to Medical Directors, infectious diseases teams, microbiology departments and laboratory leads across the NHS and independent sector, and other DA teams as appropriate to their local arrangements.
 - **Crown Dependencies** to cascade to teams as appropriate to local arrangements.
 - **Regional Deputy Directors** to cascade to Directors of Public Health.
 - **UKHSA microbiologists** to cascade to non-UKHSA labs (NHS and independent sector)
 - **UKHSA microbiologists** to cascade to NHS Trust and independent sector infection leads.
 - **NHS labs/NHS infection leads/NHS microbiologists/NHS infectious disease specialists** to cascade according to local arrangements to hospital microbiology, infection and infection prevention and control teams.
 - **NHSE National Operations Centre** to cascade to Medical Directors, infectious diseases teams, microbiology departments and NHS laboratory leads, and via appropriate independent sector contacts.
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UKHSA previously issued briefing note 2025/001 on 07 Jan 2025: 'Increasing detection and outbreaks of *Candidozyma (Candida) auris* in hospitals in England'.

Updates:

- Guidance has been updated and is available on the GOV.UK website [Candidozyma auris \(formerly Candida auris\): guidance for acute healthcare settings - GOV.UK](#). This version supersedes the previous guidance published in 2017.
- UKHSA has declared a national standard incident in response to increasing detections of *C. auris* in hospitals and outbreaks, working with NHSE, the NHS and independent sector, and partner organisations.

Background and Interpretation:

As outlined in briefing note 2025/001:

C. auris is a World Health Organization critical priority fungal pathogen that can result in invasive infection, colonisation and outbreaks in healthcare settings. *C. auris* has been increasingly detected in England and there are currently significant outbreaks affecting two NHS tertiary referral hospitals in London and South East UKHSA regions with a small number of associated cases involving patient transfers to other hospitals. Whilst most cases represent (asymptomatic) colonisations rather than infections, *C. auris* outbreaks can result in serious infections, and substantial service disruption with financial implications as measures are put in place to reduce risk to patients. Currently, there is known under-ascertainment of *C. auris* cases, and suspected under-reporting of *C. auris* outbreaks. From April 2025, *C. auris* will be listed as a notifiable organism under schedule 2 of the Health Protection (Notification) Regulations 2010, subject to Parliamentary scrutiny and approval. UKHSA has requested laboratories to include *C. auris* in their reporting to the Second Generation Surveillance System (SGSS), on a voluntary basis in the interim. Organisations experiencing an outbreak of *C. auris* have also been requested to notify their local UKHSA health protection team (HPT) and share information on their outbreak status and patient transfers via NHS and independent hospital networks and or directly with relevant organisations.

Updates:

Guidance has been updated and is available on the GOV.UK website [Candidozyma auris \(formerly Candida auris\): guidance for acute healthcare settings - GOV.UK](#). This version supersedes the previous 2017 guidance 'Guidance for the laboratory investigation, management, and infection prevention and control of *Candida auris*'.

The guidance is intended for healthcare professionals in acute NHS and independent sector healthcare settings in England, including laboratory personnel and IPC teams. It may also be used by clinical and public health professionals involved in the management of healthcare-associated outbreaks of *C. auris*.

The guidance is published in the following sections:

- introduction and background
- investigations in clinical laboratories
- screening of patients and contacts
- management of patients who test positive for *C. auris* (colonised and infected)
- infection prevention and control
- notification, reporting and information sharing

A summary of recommendations provides a concise overview of the guidance and is designed to support adoption and implementation within acute healthcare settings.

UKHSA has declared a national standard incident with a multi-stakeholder incident management team overseeing the situation and implementing interventions to mitigate risks associated with *C. auris*.

Implications & Recommendations for UKHSA Regions

HPT colleagues are asked to refer to the updated [Candidozyma auris \(formerly Candida auris\): guidance for acute healthcare settings - GOV.UK](#) to support management of healthcare-associated outbreaks of *C. auris*

Please inform the UKHSA *C. auris* incident management team of any *C. auris* outbreaks via incident046.nrc@ukhsa.gov.uk. Any further queries at a regional level should be directed to the incident regional operations cell via incident046.roc@ukhsa.gov.uk

Implications & Recommendations for UKHSA Sites and Services

UKHSA microbiologists, laboratory and clinical-facing colleagues should refer to the updated [Candidozyma auris \(formerly Candida auris\): guidance for acute healthcare settings - GOV.UK](#) as required.

Implications & Recommendations for the NHS

Updated [Candidozyma auris \(formerly Candida auris\): guidance for acute healthcare settings - GOV.UK](#) is intended for use by healthcare professionals in acute NHS and independent sector healthcare settings in England. DIPC, microbiology and laboratory leads are asked to note the guidance and cascade as appropriate within their organisations.

Implications and recommendations for Local Authorities

This briefing note is provided for information only. No immediate action is required.

References/ Sources of information

[Candidozyma auris \(formerly Candida auris\): guidance for acute healthcare settings - GOV.UK](#)
