

Oakland County Medical Control Authority
EMS Advisory



EMS Advisory	
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ATTENTION Oakland County EMS Providers and Hospitals

C. auris Alert

Please be aware of *Candida auris*, a rare but serious result of prolonged hospitalization with multiple tubes/catheters and treatments with multiple antibiotics, most often in severely debilitated, immunocompromised patients. To decrease the spread of this emerging multi-drug resistant pathogen, EMS providers must:

1. Use universal precautions when treating suspected patients.
2. Linen becomes a hazardous material.
3. The stretcher and ambulance surfaces must be cleaned, after a potential patient encounter, with bleach or hydrogen peroxide only.

Please read and disseminate the attached memo from Dr. Faust, Oakland County Health Division Medical Director.

If you have any questions, please contact the OCMCA at 248-975-9704. Thank you for your help and support.

September, 2019

To: Oakland County EMS Providers:

Oakland County Health Division is sharing important information regarding *Candida auris* (*C. auris*), an emerging multi-drug resistant yeast pathogen. Our goal with this information is to help you prevent spread of *C. auris* infections.

Candida auris can cause invasive infections and is associated with high mortality rates in patients requiring skilled nursing care:

- **patients with invasive devices such as tracheostomy or gastrostomy tubes;**
- **those with immunocompromised status;**
- **those receiving broad-spectrum antibiotics.**

In this nosocomial population the fatality rate ranges from 40-60%!

C. auris has caused numerous outbreaks in healthcare facilities and has been difficult to control; *C. auris* is commonly resistant to at least one of three classes of antifungal medications, and is highly resistant to disinfectants commonly used in healthcare.

The challenge for EMS is disinfection of equipment after transporting such patients.

Based on available data, the following disinfectants are effective against *C. auris*:

- **Bleach or hydrogen peroxide to disinfect surfaces;**
- **Betadine (iodine-based agents) to disinfect skin.**

Please note that we will periodically provide updates on emerging pathogens at future meetings of the Oakland Medical Control Authority.

Sincerely,

OAKLAND COUNTY HEALTH DIVISION
Department of Health and Human Services



Russell Faust, MD, PhD, FAAP
Medical Director