

Guidance for the laboratory investigation, management and infection prevention and control for cases of *Candida auris*

SHPN guide to using the external guidance

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Contents

Overview

- Intended audience

- What the guidance covers

Guide for use in Scotland

- Investigation in clinical laboratories

- Infection, prevention and control (IPC)

- [View the external guidance](#)

Overview

This Scottish Health Protection Network (SHPN) guide should be used alongside the external guidance that it relates to.

This guide covers the UKHSA 'Guidance for the laboratory investigation, management and infection prevention and control for cases of *Candida auris*'.

This external guidance has been approved for use in Scotland by the SHPN Guidance Group (SHPN-GG).

Intended audience

This guidance is for health protection professionals only.

Other people who require advice should contact their local health protection team.

What the guidance covers

This guidance covers:

- sending *Candida* spp isolates for laboratory testing
- treatment and decolonisation of patients and screening in hospitals
- infection prevention and control measures

Guide for use in Scotland

The following recommendations for using this guidance in Scotland were agreed by the SHPN through the agreed review and adoption process.

Investigation in clinical laboratories

Page 4 to 6 cover the investigation in clinical laboratories.

The following supplementary information relates to the need for identification to species level for:

- any *Candida* spp. isolates from blood cultures
- as a minimum, other isolates judged as clinically significant from deep sample sites from all patients
- any isolates from patients transferred from an affected hospital (UK or abroad)

At the moment Bruker MALDI-TOF (Biotyper) is the most reliable speciation system for *C. auris*.

For laboratories which do not have this system we suggest that any isolate that identifies as *C. famata*, *C. haemulonii*, *C. sake*, *C. lusitanae*, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, or unidentified isolates, is screened for ability to grow at 42°C and/or high level fluconazole resistance by disc, antimicrobial gradient diffusion method (e.g. Etest) or VITEK 2, or is sent to a laboratory with a Bruker MALDI-TOF Biotyper for confirmation.

Suspicious/possible *C. auris* isolates should be sent to the PHE Mycology Reference laboratory in Bristol.

The fluconazole disc method reference is: CLSI M44 A2 (Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute. 2009. Method for Antifungal Disk Diffusion Susceptibility Testing of Yeasts, 2nd ed. Approved Guideline. Document M44-A2. Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute, Wayne, PA.) For Vitek 2 and Gradient diffusion as per manufacturers guidance.

Infection, prevention and control (IPC)

Pages 10 to 13 set out infection, prevention and control advice. Users of the guidance in Scotland should refer to the National Infection Prevention and Control Manual.⁷

View the external guidance

This external guidance should be used together with the guide for use in Scotland provided on these pages.

The specified path, file name, or both are too long. The fully qualified file name must be less than 260 characters, and the directory name must be less than 248 characters.

Last updated: 21 March 2024

Version history

21 June 2023 - Version 1.0

- Previously published on the Health Protection Scotland website on 1 August 2017.
- This is the first publication on the Public Health Scotland website in a new HTML format.

- There have been no changes to the recommendations.
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