pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

DISCHARGE INFORMATION FOR *CANDIDA AURIS* PATIENTS RETURNING HOME

Candida auris (C. auris) is a type of fungus that can cause serious infections. It is often difficult to treat because it is hard to identify and resistant to multiple medications. Patients can be carriers without knowing it and the fungus can spread to other patients. There is currently no recommended treatment for carriers.

C. auris is more likely to infect or colonize patients who frequently require medical care at hospitals and nursing homes. These patients have weakened immune systems from chronic medical conditions, receiving lots of antibiotics, or having devices like tubes going into their body (for example, breathing tubes, feeding tubes, catheters in a vein, or bladder catheters).

It is important for healthcare facilities and providers to know who is carrying the fungus and take steps to prevent it from spreading to other patients.

WHAT SHOULD I DO AT HOME?

Tell your health care providers you have *C. auris.* They can take action to prevent spreading it by cleaning their hands and wearing a gown and gloves as needed. They will also clean and disinfect reusable equipment that was used during your care.

Family members who are healthy have a low chance of *C. auris* infection. Persons caring for patients with *C. auris* should wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before and after providing medical care or touching medical devices. They should also wear gloves when they have contact with a person's body fluids, including blood, stool, urine, and vomit. Hand hygiene is particularly important if the caregiver is caring for more than one ill person at home.

WHAT SHOULD I DO WHEN I RECEIVE MEDICAL CARE AT A HOSPITAL OR OTHER INPATIENT HEALTHCARE FACILITY?

It is important to carry this information with your medical paperwork. Take a picture of it with your phone or cut out the box (at right) and carry it in your wallet. **Please show this information to your healthcare team whenever you receive medical care in an Emergency Department or inpatient facility.**

CANDIDA AURIS MEDICAL ALERT*

PATIENT NAME:_____

DATE OF BIRTH:_____

Dear Healthcare Worker,
C. auris is a fungus that can cause severe infections among vulnerable patients that require hospitalization or nursing home care. It can easily spread in healthcare settings through contact with contaminated environmental surfaces or equipment in the patient environment, or from person to person.

When caring for a patient with *C. auris*:
➢ Use alcohol-based hand rub or wash your hands frequently.
➢ Place the patient on contact precautions in a single-patient room.
➢ Clean surfaces and reusable equipment with EPA-registered disinfectants that have an effective claim against *C. auris* (List P).

Contact your infection prevention and control (IPC) specialist for more information. If the IPC specialist needs additional guidance, they should contact the local health department or DOH at 1-877-PA-HEALTH.