

香港特別行政區政府

衛生署

衛生防護中心

感染控制處

九龍亞皆老街147C號地下



衛生防護中心  
Centre for Health Protection

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE HONG KONG

SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Centre for Health Protection

Infection Control Branch

G/F, 147C Argyle Street, Kowloon

本署檔號 Our Ref. : DH/ICB/P3/AT/6

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電話 Tel. :

圖文傳真 Fax No. :

15 October 2020

Dear Manager / Infection Control Officer of Residential Care Home,

**Alert on the rise in *Candida auris* colonisation in Hong Kong**

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health would like to draw your attention to the rise of *Candida auris* (*C. auris*) colonisation occurring in public hospitals in Kowloon West Cluster of the Hospital Authority (HA). Your institution is reminded to stay vigilant against the transmission of this organism among residents.

In Hong Kong, *C. auris* colonisation is first identified in June 2019 from a patient with travel history to Switzerland. Since July 2020, outbreaks of *C. auris* colonisation were reported in Princess Margaret Hospital and Yan Chai Hospital. From 29 June 2020 to 9 October 2020, a total of 41 patients with *C. auris* colonisation have been reported to the Infection Control Branch of CHP by HA for infection control advice after discharge to residential care homes.

*C. auris* is an emerging multi-drug resistant yeast that can cause invasive infections associated with high mortality. Treatment is relatively difficult as *C. auris* is resistant to many of the anti-fungal drugs. Transmitted by direct or indirect contact, *C. auris* can be carried over various body sites (including skin, urogenital tract and respiratory tract), survive in the environment for weeks, and cause outbreaks in healthcare settings. It is crucial to maintain good personal hygiene (especially hand hygiene), and environmental hygiene in order to prevent emergence and transmission of *C. auris* within the residential care homes.

Upon receiving report of a patient with *C. auris* colonisation with a discharge plan to residential care home from HA, staff from the Infection Control Branch of CHP would conduct site visit, and work with Community Geriatric Assessment Team of the HA and Social Welfare Department to provide infection control advice and staff training. Effective infection control measures would include specific placement of the carrier resident, strict observation of infection control precautions (standard and contact precautions), enhancement of environmental cleansing and disinfection, use of dedicated equipment, toilet and bathing facilities.

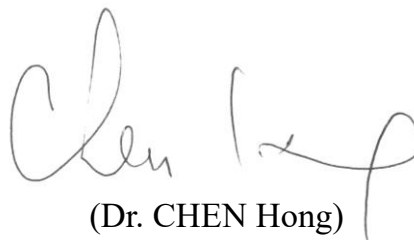
In view of the latest local situation, we would like to alert you to be vigilant about *C. auris* in the institutional environment, with special attention paid to residents who had stayed in hospitals with report of *C. auris* outbreaks. CHP has issued infection control guideline on prevention and control of multi-drug resistant organisms (MDRO) including *C. auris*. Please refer to Appendix G of the “Guidelines on Prevention of Communicable Diseases in Residential Care Homes for the Elderly” for details:

[https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/guidelines\\_on\\_prevention\\_of\\_communicable\\_diseases\\_in\\_rche\\_eng.pdf](https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/guidelines_on_prevention_of_communicable_diseases_in_rche_eng.pdf)

The Infection Control Branch of CHP has also provided training on management of MDROs in institutions on 6 October 2020. The training materials can be accessed on <https://icidportal.ha.org.hk>.

Thank you for your unfailing support in the prevention and control of communicable diseases.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chen Hong', written in a cursive style.

(Dr. CHEN Hong)

for Controller, Centre for Health Protection  
Department of Health