Interior Health

Hospital Admission Screening for Antimicrobial-Resistant Organisms

Patient Information • Infection Prevention & Control   www.interiorhealth.ca

Why am I receiving this pamphlet?

This information sheet is provided to help you and your family understand the hospital admission screening process for antimicrobial-resistant organisms.

You may be screened for:

Antimicrobial-resistant organisms (AROs) are organisms that are resistant to the action of one or more drugs (i.e., antibiotics or antifungals)

- *Staphylococcus aureus* (staph) is a type of bacteria that normally live on the skin and in the nose. It is referred to as methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) if it is resistant to certain antibiotics.

- *Candida auris (C. auris)* is a type of fungi that grows as a yeast and is often resistant to antifungal medications.

- Carbapenemase-producing organisms (CPO) is a term used to describe bacteria that live in your bowel (intestines) and have become resistant to certain antibiotics. CPO is not limited to one type of bacteria: multiple different types of bacteria in the bowel can become a CPO.

Why am I being screened?

MRSA, C. auris, and CPO can cause serious infections and are difficult to treat.

Early screening allows us to quickly identify people with antimicrobial-resistant organisms so that measures can be put in place to prevent the spread to others.

How are MRSA, C. auris, and CPO spread?

MRSA, *C. auris*, and CPO can be spread by touching other people with an antimicrobial-resistant organism or touching contaminated environmental surfaces or equipment.

The simple act of frequently cleaning your hands is the most important factor in preventing the spread of these bacteria and/or fungi.

What does screening involve?

Depending on what you are being screened for, it can involve a swab of your nostrils, armpits, groin, and/or rectal area.

What happens after the test?

If you are found to have any of these antimicrobial-resistant organisms, your doctor will discuss the results with you.

more information on other side ➔

Call 8-1-1 Healthlink BC www.healthlinkbc.ca	Nurse	24 hours a day	Daily	Call 8-1-1 to speak with a nurse, ask a dietitian about nutrition, or a pharmacist about your medication.
	Dietitian	9 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Mon – Fri	
	Pharmacist	5 p.m. – 9 a.m.	Daily	
	Hearing Impaired	Call 7-1-1		

Screening for Antimicrobial-Resistant Organisms

It's possible for MRSA, *C. auris* and/or CPO to live on or in your body without causing illness, which is referred to as colonization.

If the test shows that you are colonized with MRSA, *C. auris*, and/or CPO, the following measures will be taken to prevent the spread to others:

- You will be placed on Additional Precautions, which means you may move rooms and a sign will be put on your door/curtain.
- Health care providers will clean their hands and wear gowns and gloves when entering your room.
- A note will be added to your electronic health record to inform health care providers when you visit again.

Remember

Cleaning your hands frequently is vital to stop the spread of MRSA, *C. auris* and/or CPO.

If you return to a hospital, tell the nurse or doctor if you have MRSA (methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus), Candida auris (C. auris)*, and/or a carbapenemase-producing organism (CPO).

Additional Resources

There are many resources on the internet but not all will have accurate information. Below is a list of trusted internet resources. Open camera on phone, focus on image (QR Code), tap website link to open document.

US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)	*Candida auris (C.auris)* https://www.cdc.gov/candida-auris/index.html	
BCCDC public website	Hand Hygiene http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/prevention-public-health/hand-hygiene	
HealthLink BC	Carbapenemase-producing organism (CPO) https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/healthlinkbc-files/carbapenemase-producing-organisms-cpo	
	Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/healthlinkbc-files/methicillin-resistant-staphylococcus-aureus-mrsa	