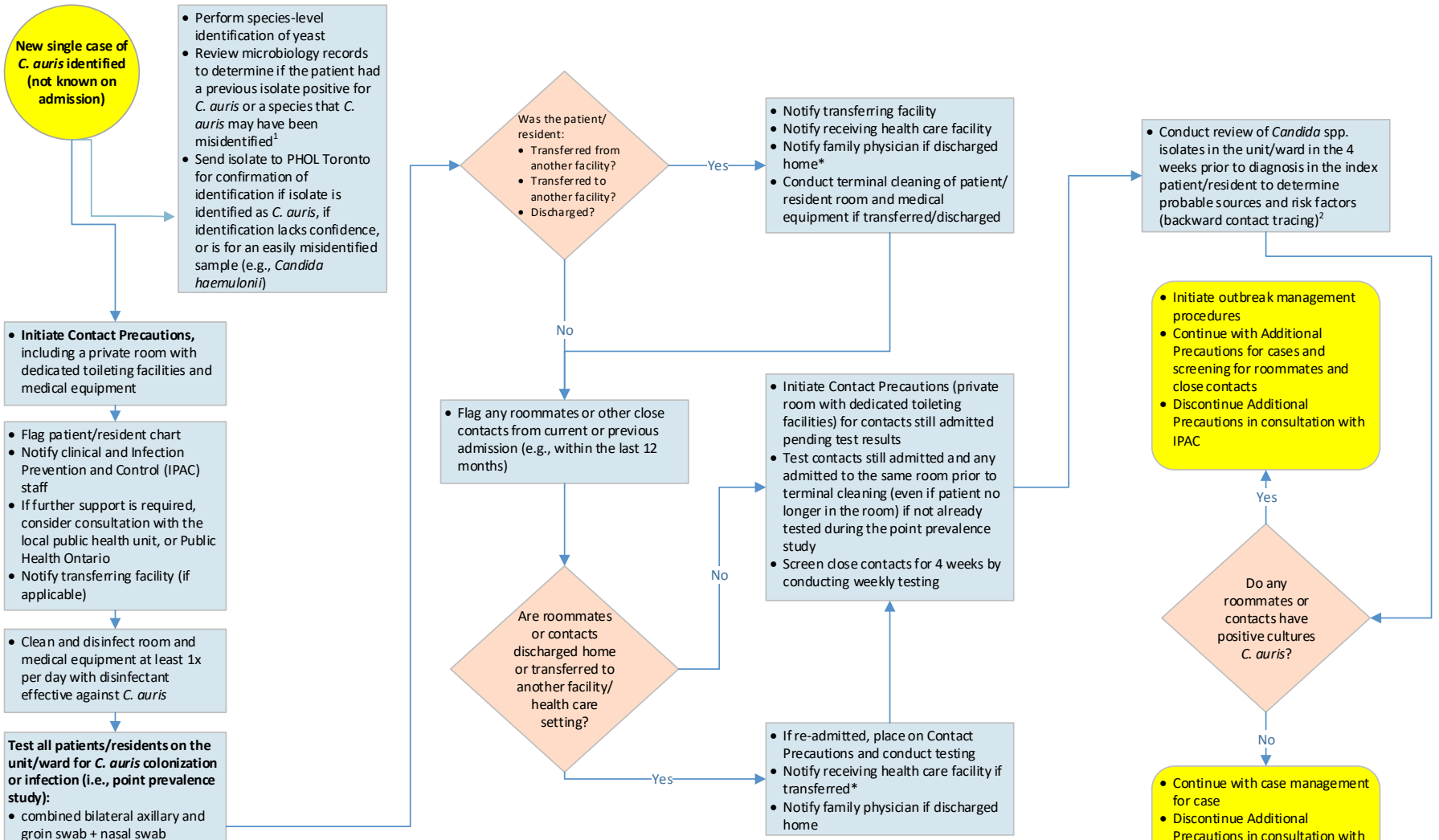
Management of a Single New Case of *Candida auris* (*C. auris*)

Public Health Ontario | Santé publique Ontario



*The family physician should be notified to ensure appropriate precautions are taken when providing care to their patient. When notifying the family physician, the following information may be provided: patient identification, organism, specimen site, recommendation for Additional Precautions. You may refer the family physician to the Public Health Ontario resources list in the *Additional Resources* section, and to consider consulting with the local Public Health Unit or Public Health Ontario if further support is required.

Additional information on next page

Background

Candida auris is an emerging fungal pathogen that can be resistant to many treatment and disinfecting agents. Invasive infections caused by *C. auris* are associated with high mortality rates and this organism has been shown to cause prolonged outbreaks in health care settings.

Early identification and management of cases, along with prevention of colonization, are key ways we can prevent the spread of *C. auris*. Cases of *C. auris* have been reported in Ontario and are likely to increase over time. This algorithm may be used in all health care settings by both inpatient and outpatient/ ambulatory care settings.

Glossary

Additional Precautions: Infection prevention and control practices required in addition to Routine Practices.

***Candida haemulonii*:** An emerging yeast pathogen that can cause infections in humans. The pathogen is resistant to several antifungal medications and disinfectants and can be found in health care settings.

Contact: An individual who is exposed to a person colonized or infected with an antibiotic resistant organism in a manner that allows transmission to occur (e.g., roommate).

Contact Precautions: Used in addition to Routine Practices to reduce the risk of transmitting infectious agents via contact with an infectious person. When Contact Precautions are implemented, gowns and gloves should be used as personal protective equipment by health care workers and visitors.

Isolate: A single species of bacteria obtained from a pure culture.

Non-albicans Candida: Yeast pathogens within the *Candida* species that can cause infections in humans and are different from *Candida albicans*.

Point Prevalence (in the context of *C. auris*): The surveillance for all existing and new nosocomial *C. auris* infections and/or colonizations in a health care setting on a single day. It can provide a rapid way to estimate the magnitude of health care-associated infections in a health care setting at a single point in time (e.g., testing all patients or residents in a defined area, such as a specific unit, at a single point in time to determine how many are colonized with a specific microorganism).

Additional Resources

1. Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). Labstract: Candida auris reference identification and susceptibility testing [Internet]. Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario; 2019 [cited 2024 Apr 16]. Available from: https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/Documents/Lab/lab-sd-131-candida-auris-reference-id-susceptibility-testing.pdf
2. Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario), Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee. Interim guide for infection prevention and control of Candida auris [Internet]. Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario; 2019 [cited 2023 Jul 26]. Available from: https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/P/2019/pidac-ipac-candida-auris.pdf

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