STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
Home and Community Living Administration
Residential Care Services • P.O. Box 45600 • Olympia, Washington 98504

09/16/2026
Amended: 10/12/2026

HCLA: NH #2025-054
Updated – Timely, Impartial, & Accurate Admission Decision Making – Multidrug-Resistant Organism (MDRO) *Candida Auris* (*C. auris*)

Dear Nursing Home Administrator,

The Department of Social and Health Services Residential Care Services (RCS), in partnership with the Department of Health (DOH), is providing updated information to support admission decisions and safe care transitions for people who have *C. auris*, also known as *Candidozyma auris or Candida auris*.

Hospitals and other healthcare settings continue to encounter barriers when attempting to locate appropriate post-acute and long-term care placements for people who are infected or colonized with *C. auris*.

An individual's *C. auris* status alone should not result in denial of admission. Potential residents who have been exposed to, or diagnosed with, an MDRO like *C. a*uris can be safely admitted when facilities ensure accurate, consistent implementation of enhanced barrier precautions (EBP) and other recommended infection prevention and control (IPC) procedures.

A positive *C. auris* screening result may indicate colonization rather than an active infection. People who are colonized carry *C. auris* on their skin or body without symptoms and may remain colonized indefinitely. Because routine testing to determine whether colonization has cleared is not recommended, requiring a negative test before considering admission may unnecessarily delay an appropriate transfer.

Facilities are encouraged to work with their local health jurisdiction and the Department of Health (DOH) Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAI) Program to assess IPC readiness and obtain IPC guidance, education, and technical assistance to assist in evaluating individual admission decisions.

Timely admission decisions, informed by comprehensive evaluation of resident care and acuity needs against available facility resources, play an important role in ensuring that individuals receive care in the most appropriate setting.

Facilities must ensure that admission decisions comply with requirements at WAC 388-97-0040(6) which prohibits discrimination and provides the following regulatory guidance to govern the admission of potential residents. Facilities must:

- Maintain one list of individuals seeking admission to the facility that is ordered by the date of request for admission.

- Admission must be offered to individuals in the order they appear on the list as long as the facility can meet the needs of the individual with available staff, or through the provision of reasonable accommodation required by state or federal laws.

42 CFR 483.71 requires that facilities complete and maintain a comprehensive facility-wide assessment to evaluate the resources necessary to care for its residents competently during both day-to-day operations and emergencies.

Facilities demonstrate impartial admission decision making by utilizing the updated facility-wide assessment to objectively determine whether the care and acuity needs of each potential resident can be met with available staffing or through reasonable accommodation.

Thank you for your continued commitment to residents' health and safety. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact the RCS IPC Specialist Jamie Ford at jamie.ford1@dshs.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Amy Abbott, Director
Residential Care Services

DSHS: *"Partnering with People"*

Regulatory Guidance:

- WAC 388-97-0040 – Discrimination prohibited,
- 42 CFR 483.71 – Facility Assessment,
- NH #2024-039 – Enhanced facility-wide assessment,
- 42 CFR 483.80 – Infection control,
- WAC 388-97-1320 – Infection control,
- QSO-24-08-NH – Enhanced Barrier Precautions in nursing homes.

Resources:

- CDC Enhanced Barrier Precautions,
- Frequently Asked Questions about EBP in Nursing Homes,
- DOH Antimicrobial Resistance and Antimicrobial Stewardship,
- Local Health Jurisdiction Contacts,
- CDC Implementation of PPE Use in NHs to Prevent Spread of MDROs
- CMS Mandates Use of Enhanced Barrier Precautions (EBP) | CMS Compliance Group.
- 420-536-Multi-DrugResistantOrganismGuideJobAid.pdf
- 420-593-EnhancedBarrierPrecautionsSkilledNursingFacilities.pdf
- https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/epas-registered-antimicrobial-products-effective-against-candida-auris-list
- C. auris Fact Sheet
- Frequently asked questions about Candida auris
- DOH Targeted MDRO Prevention and Response Toolkit