



Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

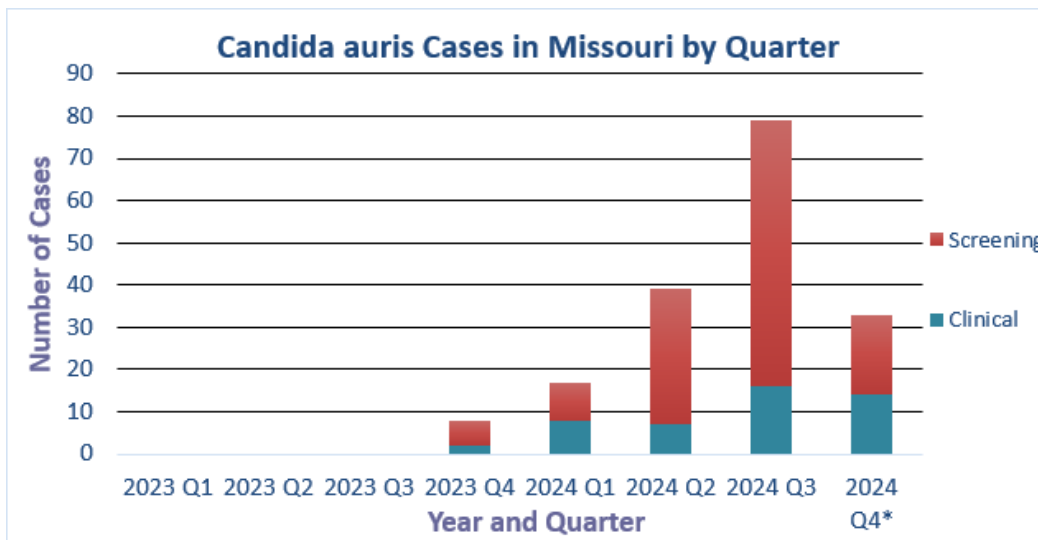
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The Missouri Department of Health and Senior (DHSS) Healthcare-Associated Infections/Antimicrobial Resistance (HAI/AR) Program continues to detect cases of *Candida auris* (*C. auris*) within healthcare facilities in the Eastern and Southeastern regions of Missouri. DHSS first identified locally acquired *C. auris* infection in October of 2023. Since then, the majority of patients have been identified in healthcare facilities in the Saint Louis Metro area but may receive further care in other regions of the state. The HAI/AR Program promotes interfacility communication of patients' *C. auris* status upon transfer between healthcare facilities. Use of an Interfacility Transfer Form, such as CDC's [form](#) or the DHSS Interfacility Transfer [Tool](#) is highly recommended. Upon admission, healthcare personnel should assess patients' *C. auris* and other multidrug-resistant organism (MDRO) status by reviewing past health or medical records, especially for patients admitted from long term acute care hospitals (LTACH) or ventilator-capable units.



*Q4 data has only been reported up to Nov 13, 2024

Cases continue to be largely identified through **point prevalence surveys (PPS)** - surveillance testing of a specific group of patients at a specific time. Colonized individuals have been detected primarily via axilla/groin swabs. Clinical cases have been identified from abdominal aspirate, blood, bile, bronchial wash, peritoneal dialysis fluid, sputum, tissue, urine, and wound tests/cultures.

Colonization Screening

Using PPS to identify colonized patients is critical to prevent spread to other patients and facilities. When conducting a PPS, the entire facility can be screened, or efforts can be focused on high-risk patients. Patients considered high-risk, and therefore recommended for screening, are:

- Patients presenting from LTACHs, skilled nursing facilities, or rehabilitation facilities who, within the past 12 months, have history of:
 - Multidrug-resistant organisms (MDROs) **OR**
 - Mechanical ventilation or tracheostomy **OR**
 - Chronic or unhealing wounds
- Patients hospitalized outside of the United States within the preceding 12 months
- Out of state residents with extended stays in healthcare facilities, including acute care and long-term care facilities
- Residents of states with historically high incidence of *C. auris*, see CDC map [here](#)

Screening Process

The screening process consists of receiving designated swabs, swabbing the axilla and groin regions of the selected patient(s), and shipping the collected swabs off for testing. The HAI/AR Program can assist and provide insight for screening efforts within your facility. Screening supplies and testing are provided at no cost to your facility. At this time, screening is not recommended for environmental surfaces or equipment, healthcare workers, or patient family members.

Infection Prevention Assistance

The HAI/AR Program can coordinate an on-site [Infection Control Assessment and Response \(ICAR\)](#) with your facility to help address any potential opportunities for improvement in infection prevention practices. ICARs consist of conducting a gap analysis of infection prevention and control (IPC) practices in a collaborative, non-regulatory setting to highlight IPC successes and provide recommendations for potential gaps. ICARs are also available at no cost to your facility. Please reach out to the HAI/AR Program for more information.

For assistance with screening or additional infection prevention questions, please reach out to the Missouri DHSS HAI/AR Program to coordinate: 573-751-6113 or HAI_Reporting@health.mo.gov.

Thank you for your attention to this matter!

*Octaria, Rany, Cincotta, Samuel, Healy, Jessica M, Gowler, Camden, Paul, Prabasaj, Walters, Maroya, & Slayton, Rachel B. (2023). Multidrug-Resistant Organisms Regional Analytics Dashboard. Zenodo. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.8097342>



Healthcare-Associated Infections/Antimicrobial Infections Program

Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

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PROMOTING HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services' vision is optimal health and safety for all Missourians, in all communities, for life.