

Frequently Asked Questions about Admission Screening for CPO and *C. auris* Colonization

What are CPOs and *C. auris*?

Carbapenemase-producing organisms (CPOs) and *Candida auris* are germs that are resistant to important antimicrobials used to treat infections. These germs can spread among patients in health care facilities.

Why am I being screened?

CPOs and *C. auris* are rarely found in Minnesota patients. However, you recently received health care in another country or state where these organisms are more common. The Minnesota Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend that patients who received health care in certain areas outside of Minnesota be tested to see if they are carrying these germs. It is important for you to be tested so that your health care providers can take steps to protect you and prevent these germs from spreading to other patients. Preventing the spread of resistant germs is very important so that they do not become common in our community.

How can I get tested?

The process is very simple and takes just a few minutes. Since people carry these kind of germs in their gut and on their skin, the best way to test for these germs is to swab your rectum, inside your armpits, and on your groin. To do this, we will gently insert the tip of a soft swab, which looks like a Q-tip, into your rectum, gently rotate it, and then remove it. We will also use a swab to gently rub your armpits and the area where your leg joins your body (groin). The process is not painful and there should not be any side effects. The swabs will be sent to a lab to test for these germs.

When will I know the results of my test?

The results will be generally be available within 2-3 business days. Your health care provider will share the results with you. While your test results are

pending, your health care providers will wear a gown and gloves when they enter your room. If your results come back negative, meaning you do not have these germs, your providers may no longer need to wear a gown and gloves.

If my test is positive, what will I need to do?

If the test is positive, it means you are carrying one or both of these germs. Since they are not making you sick (not causing infection), you will not need treatment. Your health care providers might recommend you get an additional test in the future to see if the germ is gone. However, a follow-up test will not be recommended for everyone.

Most people carry these germs and never get sick from them. If you receive medical care in the future, be sure to let your health care providers know about the results so they can make the best decisions about your care, take steps to protect you, and prevent the germs from spreading to other patients.

If my test is positive, are my friends and family at risk for getting the germs?

The risk of spreading these germs to your family and friends is very low, but family and visitors should wash their hands carefully to decrease the chance of getting the germs. You should also wash your hands frequently, especially after using the bathroom.

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