***Candida species* identification (Isolates)** **Revised 10-4-2023**	
Test description	Identification of yeast isolates as *Candida auris.*
Test use	Confirmation of yeast isolates identified as or suspected of being *Candida auris.*
Test Department	Mycobacteriology (TB)/Mycology Phone: (860) 920-6649 or (860) 920-6596; Fax: (860) 920-6721
Methodology	MALDI-TOF (Matrix Assisted Laser Induced Desorption Ionization-Time of Flight) Mass Spectroscopy and Real-Time Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR).
Availability	Daily, Monday - Friday as needed.
Specimen Requirements	Pure culture isolates of yeast.
Collection Kit/Container	Follow all applicable federal regulations for packaging of infectious substances.
Collection instructions	Submit culture isolates on any agar-based media slants that support the growth of yeast. Mycology-specific media is not necessary (*C. auris* can grow on blood or chocolate agar slants). Sabouraud Dextrose Agar is the preferred media for primary isolation.
Specimen Handling & Transport	Transport cultures to the laboratory at room temperature (15-25^{o}C). Avoid temperature extremes.
Unacceptable Conditions	Unlabeled specimens. Culture containers that have broken in transit.
Requisition Form	Clinical Test Requisition (select ***Candida auris* Identification**).
Required Information	Name and address of submitter. Two patient identifiers (ie. name, DOB Acc.#, MRN) town of residence (city, state, zip). Specimen source/type, date collected, and test requested. Please ensure information on the requisition matches the specimen.
Limitations	Final identification will be based on the overall evaluation of culture purity, Gram stain, MALDI-TOF and Real-Time PCR results.
Additional Comments	*Candida auris* can be misidentified as several different organisms when using traditional biochemical identification methods, such as VITEK 2 YST, API 20C, BD Phoenix and Multiscan. Refer to the CDC document *Algorithm to identify Candida auris based on phenotypic laboratory method and initial species identification* when *C. auris* is suspected based on identification methods. This document can be found below: https://www.cdc.gov/fungal/diseases/candidiasis/pdf/Testing-algorithm-by-Method-temp.pdf