

Presentation Type:

Poster Presentation - Top Poster Abstract

Subject Category: Dialysis**Candida auris Response in a Tennessee Dialysis Facility, 2023**

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Background: *Candida auris*, a multi-drug resistant fungal pathogen, was introduced to Tennessee in 2021. There are limited studies on the spread of *C. auris* in highly specialized care settings including outpatient dialysis facilities. Facilities are concerned that *C. auris* transmission is difficult to prevent in this setting due to patient vulnerability, treatment frequency and length, and isolation challenges. As a result, these facilities may reject patients based on their positive colonization status. In 2023, the Tennessee Department of Health (TDH) conducted two containment-driven colonization screenings in response to a colonized patient receiving dialysis treatment for one month without their status being known to the facility.

Methods: An initial point prevalence survey (PPS) was conducted to assess for ongoing transmission among dialysis patients. Patient screening was prioritized for the cohort of patients who received dialysis at the same time as the index patient (Cohort A). The screening was broadened to include patients dialyzed directly before Cohort A (Cohort B) by request of the Cohort B patients. A second PPS was conducted 7 weeks later, targeting the same cohorts. Specimens were collected through supervised patient self-collection of a skin swab from the axilla and groin. Flocked Eswabs were used for collection and transferred in Amies transport media to the Tennessee State Public Health Lab. The presence of *C. auris* was detected via Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR). **Results:** Twenty-three patients (12 from Cohort A; 11 from Cohort B) were screened in the first PPS. One patient from Cohort A tested positive. This colonized patient was determined to be a known *C. auris* case first detected four months prior, but the patient's status was never communicated to the dialysis facility from the discharging acute care facility. Eleven patients, excluding the previously identified positives, participated (9 from Cohort A; 2 from Cohort B) in the second PPS; no positives were identified. **Discussion:** The index patient and an additional patient identified by the PPS both received dialysis at this facility for up to 4 months without facility knowledge. These results suggest that the standard infection control practices at this dialysis facility were adequate to prevent the transmission of *C. auris* among dialysis patients on multiple shifts. Additionally, patient self-collection identified a known *C. auris* patient. Future TDH work includes further evaluating the risk of *C. auris* transmission and developing targeted infection prevention and control practices for the outpatient dialysis setting.

Antimicrobial Stewardship & Healthcare Epidemiology 2024;4(Suppl. S1):s13

doi:10.1017/ash.2024.112

Presentation Type:

Poster Presentation - Top Poster Abstract

Subject Category: Infection Prevention in Low and Middle-Income Countries

Rapid Scale-Up of Screening for Early Detection of Sudan Virus Disease (SVD) in Healthcare Facilities (HCFs) during the 2022 Outbreak in Uganda
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Background: The Uganda Ministry of Health (MoH) and implementing partners instituted an infection prevention and control (IPC) response strategy during the Uganda SVD outbreak in 2022 that involved rapid enhancement of screening capacity at HCFs. Rapid scale-up of screening for infectious diseases, such as SVD, is critical for early identification and triage of suspected or confirmed cases in HCFs. We describe the rapid deployment of a multimodal IPC strategy implemented in response to the SVD outbreak and the resulting impact on screening measures at HCFs. **Methods:** We implemented a multimodal IPC strategy in HCFs from five high risk districts to improve screening practices from November 2022–January 2023. The strategy included training health workers (HCWs) identified as IPC mentors; establishing screening areas; and providing screening supplies and communication materials. The three-day training utilized an MoH standardized training package with didactic and practice sessions. The mentors then cascaded screening information and skills to other HCWs through onsite trainings and mentorships and established screening areas. Baseline and endline (3 months after baseline) cross-sectional assessments were conducted using the MoH IPC Assessment Tool adapted from the WHO Ebola IPC Scorecard. The five main screening parameters assessed included presence of ≥ 1 meter distance between screener and the person screened, availability of a functional handwashing facility and infrared thermometer, correct record of each person's temperature, and appropriate referral process for those suspected of having SVD to holding areas. IPC capacity was measured through the summation of each of these parameter results and calculated as an overall percentage. IBM SPSS Statistics 20 software was used for data analysis and a paired t-test done to determine any significant findings between mean scores (percentage) at baseline and endpoint. **Results:** A total of 296 IPC mentors were trained, screening information was cascaded to 3,899 HCWs, and screening areas were established in 1,135 HCFs. Based on the screening results from the MoH IPC assessment tool, capacity improved from 44% (SD=37) at baseline to 67% (SD=34) at endpoint. Screening capacity improved from baseline to endpoint among level II and public HCFs from 33% (SD=35) to 60% (SD=35) ($p < 0.05$) and from 54% (SD=38) to 76% (SD=31) ($p < 0.05$), respectively. **Conclusion:** Rapid implementation of a multimodal IPC strategy was successful in enhancing screening capacity across Uganda's HCFs during a SVD response, which is critical for early identification of infected patients to interrupt transmission. This multimodal approach should be recommended for future response actions.

Antimicrobial Stewardship & Healthcare Epidemiology 2024;4(Suppl. S1):s13

doi:10.1017/ash.2024.113

Presentation Type:

Poster Presentation - Top Poster Abstract

Subject Category: Medical Informatics**Natural Language Processing (NLP) Accurately Identifies LTCF Exposure from Clinical Notes: A Proof-of-Principle Study**

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Background: Residence or recent stay in a long-term care facility (LTCF) is one of the most important risk factors for multidrug-resistant organism (MDRO) carriage and infection, making reliable identification of LTCF-exposed inpatients a critical priority for infection control day-to-day practice and research. However, because most hospital electronic health records