Multidrug Resistant Organisms (MDROs) Notifications

The rise in multidrug-resistant organisms (MDROs), coupled with growing healthcare networks and transitions of care, have highlighted a gap in our healthcare system regarding the transfer of information, specifically of MDRO status between facilities. Gaps in communication may lead to unnecessary transmission of MDROs resulting in morbidity, mortality and increased burden on already stretched healthcare resources.

Virginia Health Information (VHI), with support from its technology partner, PointClickCare (formerly Collective Medical), is pleased to provide through the Emergency Department Care Coordination (EDCC) program an ideal platform that the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) leverages to improve communication and response to prevent the spread of these MDROs using the Flag functionality.

According to the CDC, Candida auris clinical cases have increased 60% in the United States from 2019-2020. In Virginia, Candida auris clinical cases have increased by 43% in those same years.

What are MDRO Flags?

MDRO Flags are created and attributed to patients based on both diagnoses and any lab data provided by VDH. The flag will display with a distinct flag name and description, including an 'Attributed On: [date]' of when the information was received and display 'Attributed By: [attributor]' MDRO Flags will remain attributed to a patient indefinitely from the 'Attributed On' date.

What are MDROs?

MDROs are organisms that become resistant to many antibiotics making them more difficult to treat. There are many types of MDROs, but currently flags are live for the following MDROs:

- **Candida auris** – a multi-drug resistant yeast that is highly transmissible in healthcare settings and often difficult to treat once identified.

- **CPOs** (Carbapenase producing organisms) - This can include Enterobacterales as well as other bacteria that carry the Carbpanease gene(s). Organisms that carry Carbaneases contain resistance for a variety of antibiotics.

Goal of Alert Notification

The goal of the alert is to leverage existing technology to aid in communication of patients/residents infected or colonized with MDROs when discharged to downstream facilities so the following can occur:

• Patient/resident placed in the appropriate transmission-based precautions to prevent further spread

• Help inform the optimal antimicrobial therapy regimen if deemed necessary by the patient care team

Flag Trigger

VDH uses the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists' case definition to assign cases in the Virginia Electronic Disease Surveillance System. Cases are categorized by the jurisdiction of the healthcare facility where the specimen was collected. MDRO cases identified outside of Virginia will not appear in the EDCC. Healthcare facilities should still ensure patient's MDRO status and required infection control precautions are communicated at transfer to higher or lower levels of care.
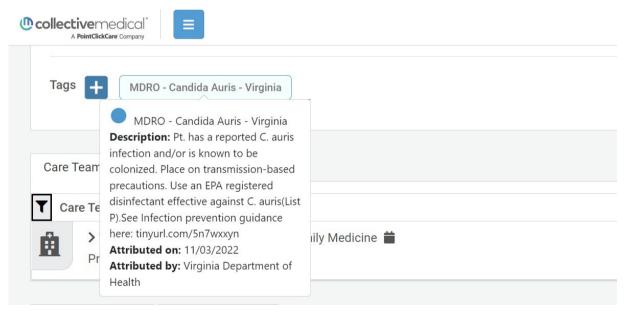
Flag Notification

MDRO flags do not expire and will be active in every enrolled healthcare facility. Any user viewing the patient portal page will see the information. Each facility will need to update their infection prevention and control guidance to include action steps for these flags and educate their healthcare personnel. Facilities should follow CDC Infection Prevention and Control recommendations and VDH Infection Prevention and Control recommendations for MDROs.

How it Works

How are MDRO Flags displayed in the EDCC portal?

EDCC portal users will see a color-coded box at the top of the patient page. When they hover over the box, a Flag description appears. The below example contains no true patient health information.

The existing transfer of care form is outdated and often incomplete. Leveraging the EDCC platform to share health information may help in transfer of accurate information. This will often ensure no delay in care and better outcomes. So, in response to the spread of MDROs, an MDRO flag was created to assist in communication among facilities. It is still recommended that facilities transfer MDRO information directly and not rely solely on EDCC flags.

Program enhancements are available to all EDCC program participants.

To learn more about this enhancement, **contact EDCCPSupport@vhi.org**

If you are an EDCC Participant who would like direct support with your portal and this enhancement contact support@collectivemedicaltech.com. The Virginia Department of Healthcare-Associated Infections & Antimicrobial Resistance Program can be contacted at hai@vdh.virginia.gov.