

Multidrug-Resistant Organism Alerts in the Emergency Department Care Coordination Program

Background

Multidrug-resistant organisms (MDROs) are on the rise in Virginia. To promote better communication between healthcare facilities about MDRO diagnoses, the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) partnered with PointClickCare® to create MDRO alerts through the Emergency Department Care Coordination (EDCC) System. Beginning in September 2022, this free program leveraged existing technology to fill gaps in information transfer by providing alerts in electronic health records of Virginia residents who have a confirmed case (infection or colonization) of [Candida auris](#) (*C. auris*) or a [carbapenemase-producing organism](#) (CPO). VDH uses case definitions set by the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists and specified by the CDC's [National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System](#).

How do these alerts work?

Facilities enrolled in the EDCC Program **must have MDRO alerts enabled**. After enabling, in some systems, users will see a tag in the electronic medical record when a patient/resident arrives with a history of *C. auris* or CPO colonization or infection (clinical case). An example of this type of alert is pictured below (Figure 1). In other cases, staff can be enrolled to receive alerts via email or text message when a patient arrives with a documented MDRO. The MDRO alerts remain active for the duration of the patient's/resident's life.

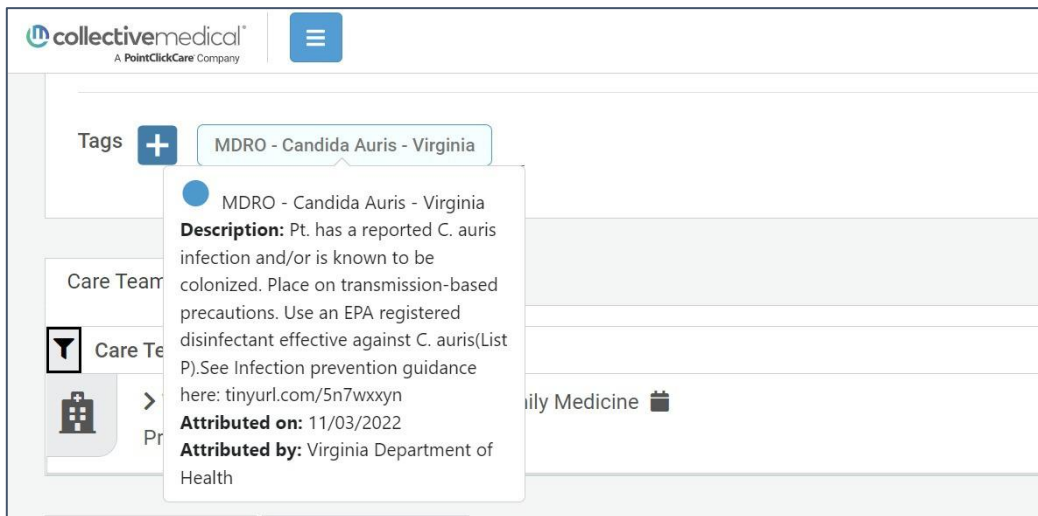


Figure 1: Example of a *C. auris* patient/resident medical record with MDRO alerts enabled. Hover over the tag at the top of the page to view tag description text.

Why are these alerts important?

Timely communication of MDRO status is vital to reduce MDRO transmission. The goals of EDCC MDRO alerts are to:

- Ensure patients/residents are promptly placed on appropriate [Transmission-Based Precautions](#) or [Enhanced Barrier Precautions](#) (in nursing homes only).
- Help inform the optimal antimicrobial regimen (if deemed necessary by the care team).

In addition to using these alerts, healthcare facilities should **ensure the patient/resident's MDRO status and required infection prevention precautions are communicated at transfer** within the facility, to another facility, and to emergency medical services providers transporting the patient/resident.

How do I make sure my facility is receiving these alerts?

- Facilities already enrolled in the EDCC Program should contact Sarah.Watt@pointclickcare.com to enable MDRO alerts or to ask general questions about the alerts.
- Facilities not yet enrolled in the EDCC Program: please contact EDCCPSupport@VHI.org to enroll in the program at no cost to the facility.