

Update on Candida auris cases in Princess Margaret Hospital

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority.

Regarding an earlier announcement on Candida auris carrier cases in Kowloon West Cluster, the spokesperson for Princess Margaret Hospital made the following update today (December 22):

Having conducted contact tracing, one more 75-year-old male patient in the surgical ward of the hospital was confirmed as a Candida auris carrier while not having signs of infection. The patient is now being treated under isolation and in stable condition.

The hospital will continue the contact tracing of close contacts of the patient in accordance with the prevailing guidelines. A series of enhanced infection control measures have already been adopted to prevent the spreading of Candida auris:

1. Thorough cleaning and disinfection of the wards concerned;
2. Enhanced admission screening for patients and environmental screening procedures;
3. Application of stringent contact precautions and enhanced hand hygiene for staff and patients;
4. Introduction of PCR rapid test for early identification of carrier; and
5. Application of designated equipment for patient use to avoid cross infection.

The hospital will continue to closely monitor the situation of the patient. The case has been reported to the Hospital Authority Head Office and the Centre for Health Protection for necessary follow-up.