**Candida Bloodstream Infections:**
Exploring the Health Impact of an Underappreciated HAI
Emerging Infections Program - Healthcare-Associated Infections Community Interface Activity

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**Candida**

*Candida* is a fungus that lives normally on skin, in mucous membranes such as the nose, and in the intestinal tract. When held in check by the body’s normal defenses, *Candida* is not harmful. However, in people with weak immune systems, and specifically patients receiving medical care, *Candida* can multiply too fast or be transmitted through a medical device such as a central line and cause a bloodstream infection. *Candida* is the fourth most common cause of bloodstream infections among hospital patients in the United States.

**An Updated Picture of Candida Infection in the U.S.**

Results from this project will allow us to learn more about common *Candida* infections in many different types of patients, as well as whether antifungal drug resistance is changing.

The project will:

- Determine how many *Candida* bloodstream infections happened in these areas
- Describe people at risk for *Candida* bloodstream infections
- Discover which types of *Candida* cause illness
- Reveal trends of drug resistance

Data are expected to begin to be published in 2012.

**Partners**

This project is being completed through the Emerging Infections Program, a network of state health departments and academic medical centers dedicated to improving surveillance, prevention, and control of emerging infectious diseases. Participation for the EIP candida bloodstream infection project include partners from Georgia, Maryland, Oregon, and Tennessee.

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