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Owner	Sherie Goldbach: Project Coordinator
Policy Area	Carolina Antimicrobial Stewardship Program
Applicability	UNC Medical Center

Staphylococcus aureus/Staphylococcus lugdunensis bacteremia and Candidemia

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I. Description

The policy outlines procedures for carrying out required Infectious Diseases (ID) evaluation of inpatients with blood cultures positive for *Staphylococcus aureus, Staphylococcus lugdunensis,* and *Candida* species at University of North Carolina Hospitals. Multiple studies have demonstrated that ID consultation is associated with improved outcomes, including significantly decreased mortality, in cases of *Staphylococcus aureus* bacteremia, *Staphylococcus lugdunensis* bacteremia (a *Staphylococcus species* that causes aggressive, invasive infections similar to *Staphylococcus aureus*) and candidemia (positive blood cultures with *Candida species*).

II. Policy

All inpatients who have one or more positive blood cultures for *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Staphylococcus lugdunensis* or *Candida species* are required to have an adult ID consultation or pediatric ID consultation during their admission. This includes patients who were transferred to UNC Hospitals for further care of positive blood cultures with these pathogens.

There are two exceptions to this requirement:

- Patients who have been transitioned to comfort care at the time of positive culture results with these pathogens (or are actively being considered for transition to comfort care at the time of positive blood culture results with these pathogens, if it is anticipated that this will occur

within the next 48 hours); or

- The attending physician is board certified in Infectious Diseases.

III. Procedure

A. Implementation

Implementation of this policy will include at least one of the following:

1. When blood cultures positive for *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Staphylococcus lugdunensis,* or *Candida species* are resulted, the result will include a message stating that "Blood cultures positive with *Staphylococcus aureus* (or *Staphylococcus lugdunensis* or *Candida species*) require Infectious Diseases consultation due to increased morbidity and mortality."
2. Carolina Antimicrobial Stewardship (CASP) team members review daily positive blood cultures and will contact the team members of a patient with one or more positive blood cultures with *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Staphylococcus lugdunensis,* or *Candida species* regarding the requirement for ID consultation in these patients, if an ID consultation has not been called yet, unless exceptions as mentioned above.

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B. ID Consult Team

1. Patients admitted in an adult inpatient service will be evaluated by one of the adult ID consult teams.
2. Patients <18 years of age or patients admitted in a pediatric inpatient service, will be evaluated by the pediatric ID consult team, unless the patient is <18 years of age but admitted to a primarily adult service such as Burn Surgery or CVTICU, in which case they will be evaluated by an adult ID consult team.

C. Time to Consultation

- ID consultation should take place within 24 hours from the time it was called.

IV. References

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Tong SYC, et al. Management of Staphylococcus aureus bacteremia: a review. JAMA. 2025;334:798-808.

V. Responsible for Content

Carolina Antimicrobial Stewardship Program

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All Revision Dates

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Approval Signatures

Step Description	Approver	Date
PolicyStat Site Administrator	Judith Strubin: Mgr Program-IP	08/2026
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Applicability

UNC Medical Center

Standards

No standards are associated with this document

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