

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

6-6-23

FACULTY/PLANNER DISCLOSURES: It is our policy to ensure that planners, faculty, and content are independent of commercial bias. Drs. Tsujimoto and Shafir disclose they have had no financial relationships nor affiliations with any ineligible companies in the past 24 months. Disclosures for members of the Medical Education Committee may be found on the CME website at www.providencecme.org.

PERFORMANCE GAP/ ACTIVITY NEED: The *Coccidioides* organisms live in the soil of semiarid areas. Disease is endemic in areas such as the southwestern United States, parts of Mexico and South America. Of people who live in an endemic region, about 10-50% will have evidence of exposure to *Coccidioides*. Clinicians need to be aware of the epidemiology of the organism to include it in their differential diagnosis when a patient presents with respiratory symptoms. In particular, they need to be aware of patients who are at high risk of disseminated infection including those of African-American descent, Asian or Filipino descent, pregnancy (particularly the third trimester), age less than 1 year, Immunocompromised patients.

Candida auris is an emerging fungus that presents a serious global health threat. It is often multidrug-resistant, some strains are resistant to all three available classes of antifungals, it is difficult to identify with standard laboratory methods, and it can be misidentified in labs without specific technology leading to inappropriate management, and, it has caused outbreaks in healthcare settings. For this reason, it is important to quickly identify *C. auris* in a hospitalized patient so that healthcare facilities can take special precautions to stop its spread. [Source: SShafir, 6/1/23, personal communication]

DESIRED OUTCOMES: At the end of the activity, attendees will be able to:

- describe the epidemiology of *Coccidioides immitis* including populations at highest risk for disseminated disease.
- examine the populations at highest risk for disseminated disease.
- apply the COCCI mnemonic.
- Identify the three main reasons that *C. auris* is considered to present a serious global health threat.

LEARNERS: infectious disease specialists, emergency medicine specialists, pulmonologists/critical care specialists, dermatologists, pediatricians, internists, general/family practitioners, radiologists, pathologists, laboratory personnel; pharmacists

DESIRABLE PHYSICIAN ATTRIBUTE: provide patient-centered care, employ evidence-based practice

CULTURAL/LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY/IMPLICIT BIAS (AB241) Reflect on the patient populations most affected and consider how implicit bias may impact appropriate care of these patients. A diagnosis of cocci or *C.auris* may be missed without including them in a differential diagnosis.