

SAINT FRANCIS LABORATORY MICROBIOLOGY UPDATE

September 21, 2004

SUBJECT: Susceptibility Testing Changes

Microbiology will no longer perform susceptibility testing on urinary isolates of *Enterococcus* species.

- Infections of the lower urinary tract usually respond to therapy with ampicillin. Ciprofloxacin, levofloxacin, norfloxacin, nitrofurantoin, or tetracycline can also be used, but the prevalence of resistance to these agents is higher.
- Urinary isolates from *inpatients* will be *screened* for *vancomycin resistance*. If found to be VRE, those isolates will be tested with a VRE panel.
- *Non-urinary* isolates *will* be tested.

Microbiology will no longer perform susceptibility testing on organisms isolated from intra-vascular catheter *tips*, except by special request.

- Since the treatment of catheter infection is removal of the catheter, susceptibility testing is not recommended.
- This does *not* affect isolates from *blood cultures* drawn through *catheters*. Those will continue to be tested, when appropriate.

If you feel susceptibility testing should be performed in either of these instances for your patient, please contact Microbiology at 918-494-1320 to request susceptibility testing. Isolates are held for 7 days after a culture is final to accommodate further testing.

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