

Update to Urine Antibiotic Sensitivity Testing from 8th June 2015

Dear Microbiology Service User,

I am writing to inform you of an upcoming change to antibiotic sensitivity testing on urine samples received at Nottingham University Hospitals Clinical Microbiology department.

Due to rising resistance rates, **urinary coliform isolates will no longer be routinely tested against amoxicillin**. The current resistance rate to amoxicillin in urine isolates tested at Nottingham University Hospitals Microbiology laboratory is 64% (January – March 2015).

Urine coliform isolates will instead be routinely tested against the antibiotic pivmecillinam. Pivmecillinam is a beta-lactam antibiotic licensed for the treatment of urinary tract infections. The current resistance rate to pivmecillinam in urine isolates tested at Nottingham University Hospitals Microbiology laboratory is 8% (January – March 2015).

The routine sensitivity panel for urinary coliform isolates will therefore be: nitrofurantoin, trimethoprim, pivmecillinam, co-amoxiclav, cefalexin and ciprofloxacin. As per the current practice, further sensitivity testing will be performed where clinically indicated. Urine culture and sensitivity results will continue to be reported to clinicians in the existing way.

Primary and Secondary Care antibiotic prescribing guidelines have been updated in consultation with clinicians, reflecting local antibiotic resistance rates and national level guidance. Please refer to the **local updated guidelines** on the diagnosis and management of urinary tract infections, as recommendations on treatment choices for urinary tract infection have changed.

- The Nottinghamshire Primary Care Antibiotic Guidelines can be found at: <http://www.nottsapc.nhs.uk/index.php/clinical-guidelines>
- The Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust Guidelines can be found via the NUH intranet antibiotics site. A summary of the guidelines can be found at: <http://www.nuh.nhs.uk/healthcare-professionals/antibiotics/>

Please contact the department if you require clinical advice regarding the management of urinary tract infections in relation to this change.



Dr Vivienne Weston
Clinical Lead and Head of Service
Department of Clinical Microbiology
Nottingham University Hospitals