

Labstract – July 2012

Antifungal Drug Susceptibility Testing – Yeast, Aspergillus

In order to improve management of patients with fungal infections, the following changes in antifungal drug susceptibility testing will take place effective June 1, 2012.

- **Caspofungin** and **Micafungin** (belonging to Echinocandins family) will be reported in addition to Amphotericin B, Fluconazole and Voriconazole for *Candida* spp.
- Susceptibility test for *Aspergillus* species will be performed on special request only. MEC (minimal effective concentration) for Echinocandins and MIC (minimal inhibition concentration) for Amphotericin B, Fluconazole and Voriconazole will be reported. Break points have not been established for mould testing.
- Susceptibility testing will only be performed if the organism identification is provided or requested by the submitting laboratory.
- For isolates from non-sterile body site, i.e. sputum, bronchial washing, urine, skin, genital area etc., in which the clinical significance of the organism in the disease process is not clear, susceptibility testing will not be performed unless the antifungal chemotherapy is warranted.
- For susceptibility testing requests for yeast other than *Candida* spp, i.e. *Cryptococcus neoformans*, *Trichosporon* spp etc, the minimal inhibition concentration of certain drugs can be performed but no interpretation can be made due to lack of interpretative category.
- Turn around time of the susceptibility testing for *Candida* spp will be 48 hours and within 14 days for *Aspergillus* species, upon receiving the organism in Mycology laboratory, provided the organism is pure and viable.

For further information:

- Call the PHO Customer Service Centre at 416 235 6556 or toll free at 1 877 604 4567
- For after hours emergencies, contact the After-hours Duty Officer at 416 605 3113
- PHO Specimen Collection information - <http://www.oahpp.ca/services/specimen-collection-guide.html>
- PHL General Test Requisition form - <http://www.oahpp.ca/resources/requisitions.html>
- Labstracts - <http://www.oahpp.ca/resources/labstracts.html>
- To subscribe to future PHO Labstracts, please email labstracts@oahpp.ca