

# Test forms for the External Quality Assessment (EQA) for laboratories participating in the European Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance Network (EARS-Net), 2023

**Participating laboratories can only submit results online via the webtool.**

**This form cannot be submitted.**

This form is designed to help participating laboratories prepare their results before submission in the EARS-Net EQA webtool (<https://earsnet.eqa.dtu.dk/>). When submitting the results online in the webtool, participants will be asked for the following information:

## TEST FORM METHODS

***Escherichia coli* - strain no.** \_\_\_\_\_

The isolate should be considered as being obtained from a patient with a bloodstream infection.

For penicillins (amoxicillin and ampicillin), it should be assumed that intravenous administration will take place.

Amoxicillin should be tested, regardless of results obtained for ampicillin.

For aminoglycosides (amikacin, gentamicin and tobramycin) and colistin, it should be assumed that the antimicrobials will be administered in combination with other agents.

Breakpoints currently based on ECOFF values can be used for interpretation of results, when applicable, if no other relevant EUCAST clinical breakpoints exist.

Non-reported results will not be scored, but will still be visible in the individual evaluation reports.

1. Which methodology did you mainly use for antimicrobial susceptibility testing (AST) in this EQA exercise?

- Broth microdilution
- Macro broth dilution (tubes)
- Agar dilution
- Gradient test
  - E-test
  - MIC strip
  - Other – specify: \_\_\_\_\_

- Disk/Tablet diffusion  
 Oxoid  
 Neo sensitabs  
 BD/BBL sensi disc  
 MAST  
 Liofilchem  
 Other– specify: \_\_\_\_\_

- Automated system  
 VITEK  
 Phoenix  
 Microscan Walkaway  
 Other – specify: \_\_\_\_\_

- Other  
 If other, please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Which standard/guideline did you use when performing AST?

- EUCAST  
 Other  
 If other, please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Would you normally send this (invasive!) strain to a reference or other laboratory?  
 Yes/No

4. Please change method for the relevant antibiotic(s) if it differs from the chosen method in question 1. The result will by default be set to the information provided in question 1.

Antimicrobial	Method
Amikacin	
Amoxicillin	
Amoxicillin-clavulanic acid	
Ampicillin	
Cefepime	
Cefotaxime	
Ceftazidime	
Ceftriaxone	
Ciprofloxacin	
Colistin	
Ertapenem	
Gentamicin	
Imipenem	
Levofloxacin	

Antimicrobial	Method
Meropenem	
Moxifloxacin	
Ofloxacin	
Piperacillin-tazobactam	
Tigecycline	
Tobramycin	

Strain ID	Antimicrobial	Results and interpretation		
		≤ / = / >	MIC value (mg/L) or zone diameter (mm)	S / I / R / NA
	Amikacin			
	Amoxicillin			
	Amoxicillin-clavulanic acid			
	Ampicillin			
	Cefepime			
	Cefotaxime			
	Ceftazidime			
	Ceftriaxone			
	Ciprofloxacin			
	Colistin			
	Ertapenem			
	Gentamicin			
	Imipenem			
	Levofloxacin			
	Meropenem			
	Moxifloxacin			
	Ofloxacin			
	Piperacillin-tazobactam			
	Tigecycline			
	Tobramycin			

Kindly note, due to the Material Transfer Agreements (MTAs) between DTU and the original providers of the isolate:

1. It is recommended to store the strain in your strain collection (e.g. in a  $-80^{\circ}\text{C}$  freezer), at least until you have reviewed your results from this EQA exercise. This will allow for repetition of species identification and AST, if needed, in light of your individual performance.
2. Strains received for the 2023 EARS-Net EQA cannot be re-distributed further by the recipient laboratories.
3. It is not possible for DTU or the National EARS-Net EQA Coordinator to distribute strains to laboratories after the EQA exercise, e.g. for confirmatory, training, or reference purposes.